Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Algeria

Premier Hamrouche on Political, Economic Issues

LD1105143990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 May 90

[Report on statement by Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche to Radio Monte Carlo on 10 May—place not given]

[Text] Premier Mouloud Hamrouche made a statement to Radio Monte Carlo yesterday in which he said, in particular: If we accept some excesses in expression at a time when Algeria is getting used to democracy, the government will not remain with its hands tied where the state's authority is concerned. He pointed out that the political arena must allow everyone to express their views. He mentions that the demonstrations organized by the Islamic Front for Salvation and the one organized for democracy have the government's support on the condition that they are staged peacefully and orderly.

Hamrouche reaffirmed that the exercise of authority is achieved through popular referendum.

In reply to former president Ahmed Ben Bella's latest statements, the premier categorically dismissed any idea which violates this fundamental democratic principle. He mentioned that those who talk about the possibility of a military coup are the ones who call for a civilian putsch today.

In his statement to Radio Monte Carlo, Mouloud Hamrouche reflected, saying: When a person suggests setting up a committee of wise men who would be in power for six months or one year, what does he mean by that? Does this not mean a real coup? In this context, the strange thing which is dangerous is that those who call for this are persons who excercised power in Algeria through coups.

As far as economic reforms in Algeria are concerned, Hamrouche believes that they do not facilitate the same developments occuring in the political arena. However, as he affirmed, economic activities require a long time. He also said: We are in fact facing economic difficulties resulting from restructuring and purging our economy and trade. In his statement to Radio Monte Carlo, Mouloud Hamrouche said that the government proposed a second program which would take care of all aspects of this issue. He added that in two year's time, matters would take their normal course and economic activity will become stabilized.

Meets With Alliance

LD1305210990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche received yesterday evening at the residence of the premier the members of the political parties belonging to the democratic centrist alliance. After this meeting, the alliance issued the following statement which was signed by Mr. Ahmed Khalil, secretary general of the Social Liberal Party:

The leaderships of the political organizations belonging to the alliance and the permanent secretary of the alliance met with Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche, head of the government, in the presence of Mohamed Salah Dembri, official in charge of a mission at the premiership. The meeting lasted three hours, during which the important issues faced by the country were reviewed. Foremost among them were those related to upcoming political events.

The meeting produced a number of fundamental ideas in connection with the worrying situation in Algeria. On this occasion, the alliance of the democratic center expressed hopes that such consultation be extended to all political organizations.

We remind you that this alliance consists of the following parties: the Social Democratic party—Ajrid's wing; the Social Liberal Party; the Popular Association for Unity and Action; the National Front for Renewal; and the National Party for Solidarity and Development.

Foreign Minister on Arab Summit, Committee

NC1205131990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali has emphasized that the proposal to convene the Arab summit in Baghdad on 28 May will be meaningless without Syria's participation.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR published today, Ghazali said that Algeria cannot disregard this fact because it would be very difficult to hold a serious summit without the participation of all those who are directly and fundamentally connected with the issues put forward for discussion.

Ghazali said that the Arab ministerial committee will hold a meeting in Jeddah before the summit in order to review new developments in the Lebanese issue and discuss ways to eliminate obstacles impeding the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. Following the committee meeting, the foreign ministers of the committee member states will tour Damascus, Paris, and the Vatican, he added.

People Urged To Participate in FLN March

LD1305130690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] In a communique issued yesterday, the National Liberation Front [FLN] called on all party activists and patriots to take part in a national march that will be staged in Algiers next Thursday, 17 May. This will reaffirm the spirit of fraternity, solidarity, dialogue, and tolerance which has always been the firm moral value of the Algerian people throughout their long march on the road of struggle. This march also will emphasize the need

to safeguard Algeria's independence and national sovereignty, defend the nation's firm principles, respect the constitutional institutions, reinforce the democratic process, protect the symbols of the November 1954 revolution, deepen and entrench the political, economic, and social reforms, and protect the people's gains.

Exiled Ahmed Ben Bella Interviewed on Tensions

LD1305112890 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1800 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpts] As we have seen, the situation in Algeria has become more tense in recent months, with, first of all, and in recent weeks, an impressive Muslim fundementalist demonstration, followed on 11 May by a reaction from those who favor secularism and democracy in the country.

A 73-year-old man, who was the first head of state of independent Algeria, is following these events from afar. He is in exile in Geneva, after years of house arrest in his own country—Ahmed Ben Bella—who still is not allowed to return to Algeria.

He has agreed today to meet Antenne 2's special correspondent, Pierre Serra, to tell him that he would, once more, like to be useful in these difficult times. [passage omitted]

[Ben Bella] I am indirectly threatened with a trial because they do not want me to return, quite simply—because this could be dangerous.

[Serra] Dangerous for your life?

[Ben Bella] Yes, that could mean my life.

[Serra] Do you think that the Algerian youth still know you?

[Ben Bella] Algerian young people do not know me very well. They perhaps know the name, they are perhaps being told something, because for decades my name was banned from being uttered in Algeria. You could talk about Golda Meir, say it, but not Ben Bella. You could easily go to prison for that.

[Serra] How do you see the situation in your country today?

[Ben Bella] Well, Algeria is at an impasse. Algeria is in a dangerous situation. It is expectant. I think Algeria is going to experience harsh and difficult times.

[Serra] Do you see yourself as a remedy for the Algerian people?

[Ben Bella] I can help the Algerian people. I can help Algeria to find solutions which would avoid the dangerous position which could come about at any moment.

[Serra] You said you were ready to take power if the current government withdrew—is this true?

[Ben Bella] For a very short time. I do not want to get back into power. But there are times in the life of peoples which are dangerous, which are difficult. I will say, with modesty, that I know these times, I know how to deal with these times.

[Serra] We have seen you as, shall we say, a Marxist.

[Ben Bella, interrupting] I was never a Marxist. I was always a practicing Muslim.

[Serra] There is an amount of intolerance in....

[Ben Bella, interrupting] I reject sincerely intolerance. I consider that that is (?bad)—it exists. I consider that it is dangerous and could create a crisis which would lead us to a situation of—I would not say civil war—but a situation which would be dangerous for our country. [passage omitted]

MDA Holds News Conference, Discuss Ben Bella

LD1105173190 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 11 May 90

[Excerpts] The leaders of the Movement for Democracy [MDA] in Algeria have given a news conference in the Hannibal [not further specified] where once again the question of the return of [former Prime Minister] Ben Bella and rumors on the subject were raised. As far as Dr. Neccache, the president of the movement, and Mr. Guennene, the general secretary, are concerned, there is political opposition to this return. [passage omitted]

Another issue raised by the journalists was the meeting between Ben Bella and Abassi Madani [Islamic Salvation Front leader] abroad. An evasive answer—ask Abassi Madani—allowed doubts to remain.

Before that, Mr. Guennene had sketched a picture of the path travelled by Mr. Ben Bella, the founder of the movement, before going on to present the main lines of the movement's program, whose slogan is: For a self-sufficient, creative and democratic society.

Egypt

President Mubarak Holds Talks With Kim Il-song

NC1305202690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 May 90

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak held talks with DPRK President Kim Il-song in Pyongyang for approximately two hours this evening. The talks dealt with current developments in the international arena and bilateral issues and ways of promoting them. Discussions focused on the issues that concern the Arabs, particularly the Palestinian issue and Mubarak's proposal to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. The talks also touched on the DPRK's call for reunifyiny both parts of Korea in a peaceful and democratic way. President Mubarak expressed his hope that the Asian people will be able to settle existing disputes peacefully, and free from foreign interference and influences. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak made a speech at the dinner banquet hosted by Kim Il-song. He stressed Egypt's eagerness to strengthen the bridges of communication and interaction

with the Korean people. He praised the DPRK people's support for Egypt in all the battles it has fought for peace, development, and progress. He stressed that Egypt welcomes the easing of tension among the various world powers, the reduction in the danger of a destructive nuclear war, and disarmament. He expressed his belief that the world can benefit from these developments, achieving transformations to save mankind from many of the dangers threatening it. He called for the participation of all forces—especially the Third World countries—in this historic transformation, stressing that this participation will consolidate the foundations of the current international changes and add a considerable strategic and geographical dimension to detente. He expressed Egypt's readiness to work and coordinate with the developing countries toward beginning an intensive dialogue with the other forces on the basis of participation and cooperation. He also expressed Egypt's support for the efforts to establish peace in Asia and for the call to reunify Korea peacefully and democratically. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Moscow Visit, Soviet Changes

NC1405144690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 May 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Rejuvenating Friendship for Peace and Development"]

[Text] On this day, 25 years ago, the course of the Nile River was changed in the greatest modern scientific project in the Middle East region: the construction of the High Dam, the symbol of the will of Egypt, which conquered the impossible and declared itself a positive power in the Third World. The High Dam stands also for the deeprooted friendship between the Egyptian people and the peoples of the friendly Soviet Union.

Today, President Mubarak visits Moscow, 18 years after the last visit to the Soviet Union by a high-ranking Egyptian official, to reignite the flame of this friendship and revive its credibility. The visit is certainly an important part of President Mubarak's world strategy. It should be seen as such, and there should be no wild guessing. Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union is a continuation of the carefully planned and efficiently implemented efforts to ensure that Egypt resumes its place in the crucible of world activity after lean years of cruel isolation in the African, Arab, Islamic, and international arenas.

Some may mistakenly think that the visit comes too late, in view of the tremendous fundamental changes which have already taken place within the socialist camp and in view of the open-door policy already adopted in the Soviet Union itself. However, this view lacks precision and insight. Egyptian strategy views these changes within the Soviet Union as a further strengthening factor, since they represent an internal power having its own opinion and pursuing a new course, handling events in accordance with a new concept. This concept serves the interests of the Third World countries in general.

The Soviet Union today believes that nations are eager to enjoy freedom, democracy, prosperity, peace, and increased production. The new Soviet policy believes that man, in small and large countries alike, is vigorously struggling against the powers which oppress his freedom, exploit him, and restrict him within abstract ideologies and racist concepts, even if this racism means economic supremacy. The growing general atmosphere in the world rejects social injustice and constant talk about war, power, and weapons of mass destruction.

The Egyptian assessment of the new Soviet policy is that the issue should not be judged by its present superficial aspects, otherwise the present realities may be handled according to the belief of some that the Soviet Union has given up its old political and ideological approach. Soviet policy should be viewed in a far-sighted perspective as man's determination to get rid of all the fetters which restrict his freedom and willpower.

By this token, strengthening Egyptian-Soviet relations is not an attempt to make up for lost time as some people think. It is a far-sighted policy with a confident outlook on the future. It is a wager on man's victory and his ability to revolt against all obstacles to his movement toward real production and freedom.

Hence, President Mubarak will try during his visit to Moscow to strengthen his relations with the socialist camp countries with all their capabilities and in all their orientations, just as he did during his visit to China and North Korea. President Mubarak goes to Moscow after a period of lukewarm relations. He goes as an Egyptian leader who laid the foundations for a highly effective democratic openness. This calls for all the windows to be opened to the Egyptian people, so that they can breathe clean air away from bias and isolation. He goes also as an African leader who has enriched African political action since he restored radiance and force to the formerly deteriorating relations with all African countries. He goes also as an Arab leader whose opinions are respected and appreciated by all Arabs, regardless of their different ideologies. He goes also as a prominent nonaligned leader who still believes that the Nonaligned Movement must continue the march, because there is still a role for it to play in the international arena. Finally, he goes to Moscow believing that the development and strengthening of Egyptian-Soviet relations are urgent and vital for supporting Egypt's efforts for both peace and construction.

Mubarak 'Carrying an Olive Branch' to USSR

JN1405150590 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 12 May 90 pp 1, 8

[Article by Editor in Chief Ibrahim Sa'dah: "A Visit of Another Kind"]

[Excerpts] The visit to Moscow by President Husni Mubarak is different from all the visits made to the Soviet capital by previous Egyptian presidents. President

Mubarak's visit is new in terms of its objectives, dimensions with regard to Egypt, and the Soviet view of the visit. [passage omitted]

When President Mubarak visits the Soviet capital on Monday, he will meet with the man who leads the second superpower in the world, listen to him, and discuss with him issues related to bilateral relations and to events in the Middle East.

I believe that the prospects for economic cooperation between Egypt and the USSR have not been as significant as they are today and did not spread genuine optimism as they do today. The huge Soviet market has attracted many countries since it became open to the world. It is very difficult for the production of one, or even 10 countries, to meet the increasing and greedy needs of the Soviet people.

The Egyptian businessmen who crowd Moscow these days are awaiting President Mubarak's visit in the hope that it will result in a major development in trade cooperation between the two countries. Soviet officials also state that this visit will open new fields of trade that will double the exchange between the two countries and meet the future needs of both sides.

Talk of future trade relations between Egypt and the USSR whets the appetite, and another commentary would be needed to cover the subject extensively.

As I said at the beginning of the article, the visit to Moscow by President Husni Mubarak is different from the visits made by previous Egyptian presidents. The Egyptian president is not bringing a shopping list of military hardware to present to Soviet President Gorbachev. On the contrary, President Mubarak will arrive with his famous proposal to turn the Middle East into an area free of mass destruction weapons.

The proposal is not new; the president made the proposal as a result of the nuclear and mass destruction arms race among the regional states. President Mubarak has consulted on the proposal with leaders of regional states as well as the major powers, which can curb this terrible race that will spare no one if a war breaks out in our volatile region. President Mubarak's proposal was welcomed by most of those whom the president discussed it with; they have affirmed their support for it.

In Moscow, a responsible Soviet source announced that President Mubarak's proposal is being discussed with due attention, and that the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Gorbachev will further study the proposal. And the removal of the mass destruction weapons is not the only olive branch which President Mubarak is carrying to Moscow.

There is also the Arab-Israeli conflict, whose peaceful solution President Mubarak believes is inevitable. Mubarak has been trying to achieve this solution throughout the past years. It is very important that President Mubarak listens to the Soviet president's views on these political solutions that have been presented to all concerned parties for some time now.

There is also the problem of the increasing Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the danger that will threaten the peace process as a result of the continuation of this organized emigration and the settling of the new emigrants—in large numbers—in the occupied Arab territory. No one has the right to intervene in domestic Soviet affairs. We suffered from Soviet intervention in our internal affairs in the past. Consequently, the USSR has the right—after it became open to the world—not to impose restrictions on the movement of its citizens or on their right to emigrate to any country they want. However, while we support this right, we say that Arab rights should not be encroached on as a result of giving the Jewish emigrant the right to immigrate to Israel.

The Soviet president affirmed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that he will review this issue so that it will not conflict with other people's human rights.

President Mubarak will present to President Gorbachev his proposals on the Soviet Jews' immigration to Israel—the proposals on which an agreement was reached through President Mubarak's contacts with Arab kings and presidents.

It is really a visit of another kind; it is a visit in which the president is carrying an olive branch to the capital of the superpower, which we used to visit in search for arms to kill peace.

Soviet Union Reportage on Mubarak Visit

WA1505111090

For reportage from the Soviet Union on the visit to the Soviet Union by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, including meetings with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and USSR Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov and remarks by Vladimir Vinogradov, foreign minister of the Russian Federation and chairman of the board of the USSR-ARE [Arab Republic of Egypt] Friendship Society, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 14 May and subsequent issues of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Soviets To Cobuild Giant Power Plant, Seaport

JN1005191990 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 May 90 p 6

[By Faruq 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] Cooperation in the field of energy between Egypt and the USSR is ongoing and mutually advantageous, Electricity and Energy Minister Muhammad Mahir Abazah said.

The Soviet Union has unfailingly supplied equipment and spare parts to Soviet-installed electric power grids.

The minister said the USSR has consented to take part in the construction of the first giant electricity generating

plant powered by natural gas and coal in the Sinai. With technical designs drawn up by experts from the two nations now complete, the Soviets have also agreed to participate in building a seaport in the 'Uyun Musa district at the Suez Gulf. The initial production capacity of the station is projected at 650 thousand kilowatts, to be doubled later.

Emerging from a meeting with a team of experts of Egypt's Electricity Authority which recently returned from a visit to the USSR, the minister said the Soviet Union is due to extend an integrated cost plan in July. While in Moscow, the team discussed the construction timetable for the station—a linchpin in the plan to link Egypt and the Arab east in a power grid via the Sinai. France and Italy will join the Soviet Union in financing the project—the first time the USSR has joined forces with Western nations in an overseas venture. The overall cost of the project is estimated at one billion dollars, with implementation slated to begin by the end of the year. It is scheduled to go online at the start of the next Five-Year Plan.

Sudanese Minister Brings Message for Mubarak

NC1405150290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Sudanese Interior Minister Faysal Abu-Salih arrived in Cairo today on a one-day visit to Egypt. This is the first leg of a tour of a number of Arab countries he is making at the request of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council. During his tour, he will convey messages to a number of Arab kings and presidents.

In an arrival statement, the Sudanese minister said that he has brought with him a letter for President Husni Mubarak from Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir containing Sudan's stand on the recent incidents in Sudan.

On arrival, the Sudanese minister was received by Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, interior minister; and 'Izz-al-Din Hamid, Sudanese ambassador in Cairo.

Leaves for Damascus

NC1405213090 Cairo MENA in English 2115 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, May 14 (MENA)—Sudanese Interior Minister Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih left here tonight for Damascus after a few hours' stop-over at Cairo International Airport. In a pre-departure statement, he said he would visit Syria and Jordan to deliver messages from [Lieutenant] General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution, to President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn. [passage omitted]

Libya

JANA Editor Welcomes Chad Dialogue, Proposal

LD1405140590 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 14 May (JANA)—Radio Chad said that the government of Chad is ready to accept a peaceful settlement of the territorial conflict with Libya through dialogue within the spirit of the Algiers agreement signed by the two sides in August 1989.

The JANA political editor commented on this saying: We welcome this new orientation announced by Chad for the first time, because we are all endeavouring to achieve a peaceful settlement and dialogue.

The political editor stressed in his comment that Ndjamena should give proof of its sincerity in this matter, especially since the Libyan-Arab Chadian joint committee will convene tomorrow in Tripoli.

The editor said that if the Chadian file will be dealt with during this meeting [words indistinct] this means that Ndjamena is still, as is known by the world, unaccountable and unable to make decisions with others. He explained that Ndjamena has so far demonstrated before all the countries of the world that it is not a responsible government and that it totally ignores international laws and conventions. International organizations such as the Red Cross and the Red Crescent have declared it a mere gang which lives off mutual killing between Chadian tribes, looting and plundering. And now the gangs have turned into highway robbers.

The JANA political editor stressed the Ndjamena's neighbors are fed up with the widespread arms trade, the spread of armed assaults, and the beginning of fears of the spread of assassinations in countries surrounding Ndjamena.

The editor said that we are surprised at Radio Chad saying that it accepts the spirit of the Algiers agreement. The whole world knows that Ndjamena violated the agreement. One year has elapsed without seeing the implementation of any article of the agreement [words indistinct] (Libya), as one of Chad's neighbors, is fed up with the state of instability in Chad, widespread armed struggle, violations of [word indistinct] rights, and the shameless commitment to collective racist crimes.

The political editor pledged in his comment that Libya has done all it could for peace in Chad [word indistinct]. The political editor stressed in conclusion that it is Ndjamena that now stands at the crossroads. It should choose between salvation or perdition. Once more, he who gives advance warning should be blameless.

Chadian Foreign Minister Arrives for Committee

LD1405202990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Acheik Ibn-Oumar, Chadian minister of foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this afternoon to attend the meetings of the joint Libyan Arab-Chadian committee.

Iraq Transport Minister Al-Zubaydi Arrives

LD1305193190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 13 May (JANA)—Brother Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the regional command of the Ba'ath party and minister of transport and communications in Iraq, and a delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this afternoon, for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

Parliamentary Opposition Proposes Censure Motion

LD1405203890 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In Morocco this afternoon the opposition has just proposed a motion of censure in the parliament. This motion reveals the discontent with government policy and took on concrete form with regard to the adjusted draft budget proposed by the prime minister. Parliament is discussing the budget at the moment. Farida Moha reports:

[Moha] The parliamentary opposition has proposed a censure motion condemning the government's general policy and calling on it to submit its latest political policy lines to the vote of the chamber. One quarter of the assembly was required for this—in other words 70 deputies, who proposed the motion. [passage omitted]

In terms of timing, according to the constitution, parliament should suspend its session for three days before beginning the debates and moving on to the vote. In order for the censure motion to be passed a simple majority is required, in other words, 153 votes in favor. If the opposition parties are united a big question mark hangs over the attitude of some of the current majority, deputies who have shown themselves to be very critical during the debates concerning the adjustment of the budget within the finance commission. [passage omitted]

Oman

Sultan Qabus Receives Invitation to Summit

JN1405191190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Muscat, 14 May (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has received a written message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The message was conveyed by Iraqi Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab during his meeting with the Sultan today.

The meeting was attended by the Omani interior minister and the Iraqi ambassador accredited to the Sultanate.

The Iraqi interior minister earlier today arrived in Muscat on a two-day official visit to the Sultanate as part of his tour of several Gulf capitals.

Upon arrival, the Iraqi minister said he was carrying a message to Sultan Qabus from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn inviting the sultan to attend the emergency Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad on 28 May.

On the issues to be discussed in the summit, the Iraqi minister said these include the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories and threats to pan-Arab security.

Answering a question on Iraq regarding an invitation to Syria to attend the summit, he said Iraq had earlier extended an invitation to Syria, expressing the hope Syria that would respond to the call and attend the summit. He asserted that the conference is an Arab gathering that will address pan-Arab issues of interest to the entire Arab nation.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Speaks on Arab Summit, Lebanon

LD1405184390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1443 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 14 May (SPA)—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud chaired today's Council of Ministers meeting at the al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. Following the meeting, Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that the council listened to the custodian of the two holy mosques, who made a comprehensive review of the most important political development in the Arab region, and outlined their dimensions and positive and negative effects in general. The king—may God protect him—explained the views of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia vis-a-vis some current issues and the continuous endeavors the kingdom is making in order to purify the Arab atmosphere and to bring closer the points of view among the brothers. These endeavors aim to arrive at a common and unified view of the target when dealing with fateful Arab issues, beginning with the Palestinian and then the Lebanese issues, and concentrating on the realization of comprehensive and permanent peace in the Arabian Gulf area. [passage omitted]

The information minister added: Within the framework of the efforts being made for the convening of the extraordinary Arab summit, called for by Saddam Husayn, King Fahd said: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—as is known—has informed his excellency the Arab League secretary general, via diplomatic channels, its approval to attend the proposed summit at the invitation of Iraq, and we reaffirmed this to President Husayn during my meeting with Tariq 'Aziz who, two days ago, conveyed to us the official invitation to attend the summit. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Lebanese issue the king noted the continuous contacts and consultations carried out by the members of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee toward the optimum solution to this painful tragedy, which is still rocking the fate of sister Arab Lebanon and wasting its human, material, and cultural resources.

His majesty the king said, "I do not see, from my point of view, any alternative to what the Lebanese parliamentarians have laid down and approved in the Lebanese national document at al-Ta'if. Very briefly, and as a member of the committee charged with the Lebanese issue, I once again address the Lebanese leaderships, out of real concern over the safety of Lebanon, and I say to them that there are three important indispensible steps:

"The first—an immediate cease-fire, with determination and good faith, to protect the lives of the innocent citizens in Lebanon, and to provide a favorable atmosphere for discussions on the issues in quiet circumstances far from tension, worry, and the echoes of guns and rocket launchers.

"The second—there is no alternative to al-Ta'if being the optimum solution and fair exit which ensures the rights of all parties.

"The third—total support for the legitimacy and the sure return to the practice of constitutional life, the revitalization of national industry, resumption of work in the factories, revitalizing the national economy, full devotion to rebuilding the cherished Lebanon on solid foundations based on justice and equality, and ensuring the rights of all sects.

"In this way Lebanon will enjoy security and stability, and will continue and improve its active role within the Arab group. These things are not impossible for the Lebanese will if the intentions are sincere and attitudes meet over the unified aim for the benefit of Lebanon and the people of Lebanon." [passage omitted]

'Aziz Confirms Iranian Response to Proposal

JN1505073690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Iraq has received an Iranian response to Iraq's proposal to hold a meeting between President Saddam Husayn and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that Iran has responded to a message sent to it by the Iraqi Government calling for holding direct talks between the presidents of the two countries to break the deadlock caused by the no-peace, no-war situation that followed the end of the Iraq-Iran war.

'Aziz stated that the exchange of messages was conducted officially. He said that Iraq views this as a positive development. When asked what Iraq would do now in the wake of the Iranian response to its message, the Iraqi foreign minister said: At this point in time, we view this as a positive development conducive to a position from which we could try to reach the understanding required to achieve peace.

Tariq 'Aziz earlier told reporters after his meeting with the UN secretary general in Rome yesterday that the talks were very constructive and that the Iraqi Government would like to take all necessary measures to establish a comprehensive and durable peace between Iraq and Iran. Talks between Tariq 'Aziz and Javier Perez de Cuellar centered on the UN efforts to resume the Iraqi-Iranian talks which stopped in April 1989. These negotiations seek to attain an agreement to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for concluding a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

Government 'Studying' Reply

LD1505102490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0900 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 15 (KUNA)—Iraqi Foreign [Ministry] Undersecretary Nizar Hamdun said in press statements here Tuesday that Iraq's political leadership is studying the message of the Iranian leadership in reply to the message addressed from President Saddam Husayn to Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hamdun, in a telephone interview with Kuwait's AL-ANBA' daily, added that the Iraqi leadership would announce its position after studying the Iranian reply message in the coming few days.

Iraq had sent a message to Iran, contents of which were not revealed. However, it was said to be a 'message of peace'. In addition, President Saddam Husayn has publicly stated his readiness to meet with Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani if a face-to-face encounter is necessary to end the deadlocked U.N.-sponsored peace negotiations to end the Gulf war.

Asked about reports of a meeting shortly between Iranian and Iraqi officials possibly at foreign ministers level, Hamdun declined comment, saying 'we are still studying the message'.

On the planned extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled to convene in Baghdad on present [as received] May 28, the Iraqi official said preparations for the conclave are nearing completion and indicated that Iraq is now awaiting Arab proposals about the summit's agenda topics.

Restrictions on Iranian Resistance Figure Denied

JN1505073390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0038 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—An informed source in Baghdad has denied reports published by the Iranian magazine [as received] KEYHAN and circulated by some news agencies that the Iraqi Government has imposed restrictions on the departure of Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Higher Council of Iranian Resistance, whose headquarters are in Baghdad.

The source said that the objectives and intentions behind publishing such reports are clear, and described them as sheer lies and baseless.

Industry Ministry Deplores Shipment Confiscations

JN1405172290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA)—A spokesman for the Iraqi Industry Ministry has stated the following to INA:

News agencies have carried a report on the Turkish and Greek authorities' confiscation of shipments en route to Iraq. The Turkish authorities returned the shipment to British authorities on the pretext that the forwarding company asked that the shipment be returned, according to news agencies.

The spokesman said: The Turkish and Greek authorities' measures are illegal. The items confiscated by these authorities are items that were contracted with the manufacturing British company in accordance with regulations. They were shipped to Iraq after the relevant British authorities, particularly the British Department of Trade, had given their approval: after their cost was paid to the company; and after rights of ownership had been transferred to the Iraqi side. Therefore, the Turkish authorities have no right to confiscate the shipment and return it to Britain on the excuse that the forwarding company requested its return, because the company in question has no right to ask for this. The Turkish authorities should have acted in a manner that would have guaranteed the rights of the Iraqi side as the legal owner of the shipment.

The spokesman added: The same goes for the Greek authorities, who still hold the shipment. Recent news reports say the Greek authorities have also returned the shipment to Britain after claiming irregularities in the

shipment documents, which state that the shipment is a commercial one, while the Turkish and Greek authorities claim it is military. The Greek officials have forgotten that British authorities themselves approved the export of the agreed-upon items, and that the Iraqi side has paid for them and therefore has the right of ownership. Therefore, they should not respond to requests by any party other than the owner—the Iraqi Industry Ministry.

The Industry Ministry spokesman said Italian authorities undertook a similar action a few days ago when they confiscated a shipment of industrial metallic materials of no military nature on 12 May 1990. This action by Italian authorities was also illegal and unjustified, since the shipment became Iraq's property after its value was paid and its ownership rights transferred. Moreover, obtaining an export license is the responsibility of the supplying company, according to Italian law. We regret to note that Italy has yielded to the pressures of the well-known hostile campaign against Iraq.

He said: It is really deplorable that these states have taken action on shipments owned by Iraq without even informing the Iraqi side—as though it were not even involved in the matter.

In conclusion, the spokesman stressed that the Iraqi Industry Ministry reserves the right to act against Turkey, Greece, Italy, Britain, and any other state that adopts improper measures. The Ministry, he said, will take all legal measures against the relevant authorities in the abovementioned states, and it has actually filed a suit against the British authorities in this regard.

'Aziz Delivers Invitation to Saudi King, Returns

JN1205201090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, returned to Baghdad this evening.

During his meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques in Jeddah this evening, the president's envoy delivered an invitation from President Saddam Husayn to the custodian of the two holy mosques to attend the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad.

Upon his return, Tariq 'Aziz told INA that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, expressed his great interest in the conference and his participation in it, and his concern for its success to serve the Arab nation.

Messenger Arrives in Rabat With Summit Invitation

JN1505132690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 90

[Excerpt] Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas, President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, has arrived in Rabat. In an interview with the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, he stated that he is bearing a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II containing an invitation to attend the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad on 28 May. [passage omitted]

Envoy Delivers Message to Salih, Leaves for Aden

JN1505112490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Sanaa, 15 May (INA)—Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Ali, minister of justice and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, left for Aden today following a two-day visit to Sanaa.

During the visit, President Saddam Husayn's envoy conveyed a message from his excellency to his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. The message includes an invitation to participate in the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad on 28 May.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy will deliver similar messages to Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Shamir To Ask for More Time To Form Government

TA1505113590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is facing too many difficulties and will have to ask President Herzog for more time to form a narrow government. This morning the Likud negotiating team met for over two hours with the National Religious Party [NRP], and this evening it will meet with the three right-wing parties. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Leaving the Prime Minister's Office during the last hour, Minister Roni Milo, a member of the Likud negotiating team, remains optimistic, but says the prime minister will not be able to present the new government before his current mandate expires at the end of this week.

[Milo] No, I do not think so. We are going to conclude this week the negotiations on the agreements with the other parties, and then, I believe next week, we have a good chance to present the new government in the Knesset.

[Ze'ev] The Likud negotiating team has a full schedule of talks today. This morning it met with the NRP. Following its persistent efforts to form a national unity government, the NRP is now negotiating the terms of joining a narrow coalition. The NRP is the least of all Likud problems. NRP Minister Avner Sciaki was obviously satisfied after this morning's discussions.

[Sciaki] We were offered the education and religious affairs ministries, and we believe that we can really contribute a lot to this government in these fields.

[Ze'ev] The NRP is to be a part of a working group on the sticking points that stand in the way of a Shamir government; one major issue—electoral reform. The NRP says it supports it. Tzomet is making legislation on the issue within three months a condition for joining the coalition. The Likud meets with Tzomet at 1800 this evening, sandwiched between meetings with the two other right-wing factions, Moledet and the Tehiya. The meeting with Tzomet will come as the Knesset this evening is presented with various bills on changing the electoral system.

Agudat Yisra'el, which the Likud is still trying to lure, opposes electoral reform. To pacify it, Likud Knesset members are working for legislation against the sale of pork and indecent advertising. [end recording]

Sharon Reiterates Demand for Defense Ministry

TA1105082190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 May 90

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It is no secret that Ari'el Sharon is demanding the Defense Ministry portfolio in the next government. Yesterday, Sharon reiterated that he will not join the government if he is denied the post. In a meeting with Likud members, Sharon said: It is inconceivable to rule me out on a personal basis. There is no one in the Likud that can handle defense better than I.

Sharon made it clear, however, that he will vote for Shamir's government in the Knesset, even if he is not nominated defense minister and consequently elects to remain outside the government. Sharon explained that the alternative, as he put it, is even worse. [passage omitted]

Peres, Rabin Clash Over Labor Party Leadership

TA1505051190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] In the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin have clashed over when Labor should decide on a party leader. Rabin says the party must prepare for serving as the opposition in the Knesset, and there is a need to select the party leader as soon as possible. Rabin says he is preparing a concrete proposal.

Party leader Peres called on the party to delay the competition for party leadership until it is clear whether Yitzhaq Shamir will indeed succeed in forming a new government. The Labor Party Bureau discussed the issue at a meeting in the Knesset yesterday.

Universities in Territories To Possibly Reopen

TA1405171890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The defense establishment is examining the possibility of reopening the universities in the territories. Today, Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, and the heads of the Civil Administration held a meeting with the heads of all the universities in the territories to examine the issue. The participants in the meeting discussed a proposal to open one university within the next few days, and later, depending on how that opening goes, to continue to open other universities, one at a time.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 14 May carries a report by Arye Gus on the issue, saying that the decision to reopen the seven universities, which were closed for at least two and one half years, was made following the increase of "international and internal pressures." Interviewed in the report, Shmu'el Goren says that "this decision was made in the framework of our policy of restoring studies." This is a third stage after the first two stages of reopening high schools and colleges proved successful. Goren adds that "this is a risk we can afford to take after the realization by the local population that regular studies are in their interest." Regarding this move as indicating a change in the intifadah, Goren says that "there is doubt whether a very high level of violence would have allowed for this step to be taken." He adds that "restoring studies is indeed an important stage, both in terms of fighting the intifadah, as well as in normalization of daily life." Goren says it

has not yet been determined which university will be reopened and when, speculating that it could take "up to a few weeks."]

Defense Opposition

TA1505090590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 May 90 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Opposition to the decision to reopen the universities in the territories has been noted among defense elements and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] major generals. In fact, the decision made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, was made against the stands presented by several IDF major generals. This was reported by military sources.

Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, has expressed his firm opinion against reopening the universities to the chief of staff. According to Maj. Gen. Vilna'i, reopening the universities, which serve as a source of inspiration for increased violence by the local population, might disturb the current balance. Vilna'i fears a rise in violence and disturbances in the territories.

Maj. Gen. Moshe Bar-Kokhba opposes the decision to reopen the universities and has said in military forums that the time for this has not come yet. Maj. Gen. Bar-Kokhba added that the intifadah must be eliminated first.

It has also been learned that the chief of staff's position on the issue does not clearly support the decision to reopen the universities. Senior military sources have said that, in fact, most of the IDF senior command and defense officials oppose this move. [passage omitted]

Fatah Rebuilding 'Infrastructure' in South Lebanon

JN1505143190 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0930 GMT 15 May 90

[From the "With the Midday Events" feature]

[Text] Reports have increased recently about Fatah's attempts to rebuild its military infrastructure in southern Lebanon and in the refugee camps of Sidon, Tyre, and Beirut. According to these reports, 'Arafat is reorganizing and training his forces in order to control the territory between Beirut and Sidon.

The details are in the following report by our military correspondent (Maurice Varkova):

Recent reports indicate that Fatah is trying to reestablish itself in southern Lebanon despite the existence of a strange truce with the Israeli forces, under which these forces refrain from attacking Fatah and turn their energies to more radical Palestinian groups and Lebanese organizations that try to infiltrate into Israel for the sake of carrying out terrorist operations. The groups involved in such operations are mainly those belonging to the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Shiite organizations.

Hence, Fatah is exploiting the truce to reestablish itself in southern Lebanon. Evidence during the past few weeks shows that it is building a new, large-scale military infrastructure, especially in Iqlim al-Tuffah and Tyre. It has been learned from well-informed sources that Fatah has stationed forces in Tyre and al-Rashidiyah in numbers equal to those that existed in the same area on the eve of the Lebanon war. This force is estimated at 1,400 men. It has also been learned that Fatah's 7th Battalion, which is named after Yusuf al-Najjar, has taken up position in Ra's Bayyadah area in southern Lebanon.

Regarding terrorist operations, Fatah itself is not trying to infiltrate Israel to carry out such operations. However, it is supporting other organizations that send their murderous groups into the security belt and Israel.

The area currently used by Fatah to deploy its forces anew is Iqlim al-Tuffah, between Jazzin and Sidon. This area is devoid of its inhabitants, who have left their villages following the battles between the Shiite Hizballah and Amal Movement. The Palestinians are filling the vacuum in the deserted villages. This time, however, they are doing so with the approval of the inhabitants themselves. Fatah is also encouraging the inhabitants to return to their villages so that its men can hide in inhabited rather than deserted villages.

This activity is taking place with the approval of the Shiite Amal Movement, which controls the axes of the south. Amal is pursuing a two-faced policy toward Israel. On the one hand, it prevents indiscriminate shelling of the Israeli border with Katyushas for fear of Israeli reprisals against Shiite villages, and on the other it permits Palestinian terrorist groups to cross the border to Israel from the security belt.

Observers say that the United States, which has expressed satisfaction with Yasir 'Arafat's commitment not to carry out terrorist operations, must also understand that the new military infrastructure which 'Arafat is rebuilding in southern Lebanon will pose a threat in the future. It has been learned that more than 1,000 terrorists have returned to southern Lebanon recently and taken up positions in the refugee camps of Sidon and Tyre and its suburbs. Fatah, which is the mainstream Palestinian organization, commands some 6,000 men. Members of other pro-Syrian groups, including those of Ahmad Jibril and Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], also exist in the area.

Fatah is exploiting the armed conflict between Amal and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah by playing the role of mediator in order to reestablish itself in this area. Commentators say Fatah wants to control the territory between Beirut and Sidon. Amal has expressed concern over the cooperation between Hizballah and circles close

to Fatah, out of fear of losing its control over southern Lebanon. A new conflict between different groups within the PLO is also possible in a bid to control the terrorist groups. We must not forget that Syria is fighting Fatah and trying to uproot it from Lebanon. In the summer of 1988, the Abu-Musa group, backed by Syrian artillery, tried to expel Fatah supporters from the refugee camps in the Beirut suburbs.

On the other hand, the Abu-Tariq al-Harrawi group and Force-17, which belong to Fatah, have been known to attack Syrian forces in Lebanon, especially in the Beirut area. Observers still recall the Abu-Tariq al-Harrawi group's attack on Syrian military intelligence headquarters in al-Rumaylah late last year. These observers, who are familiar with developments in southern Lebanon, say that the current truce is bound to be violated sooner or later, due to the hostile infrasructure which Fatah is trying to set up near the Israeli border. The reason for violating the truce could be to block the peace process, for instance, or to introduce a change in the PLO position, or to replace Yasir 'Arafat with another leader in the PLO.

Finland To Allow Transit of USSR Jews

TA1505112690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 May 90 p A3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] A transit station for Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union will be opened in Finland this month. This was disclosed by Finnish President Mauno Koivisto who referred to remarks made earlier by Simha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency board of directors. Last week, the Finnish president held a conversation with Israeli reporters who were invited to Helsinki before President Hayim Herzog's visit planned for next week.

Finland has already issued 100 transit visas for Jews who appealed to the Finnish Consulate in Leningrad. After they were issued, the consulate stopped issuing more because long lines were forming in front of the consulate and Israeli absorption elements asked for some time to conclude dealing with technical and defense arrangements.

The Finnish president said the number of immigrants that would be able to pass through his country depends now only on the ability of El Al to fly them to Israel.

Koivisto stressed that an understanding between his government and the Israeli Government has been reached according to which the immigrants coming through Finland will not be settled in the territories. Jacob Bulemberg, Foreign Ministry political director general [name and title as published], said that Finland would not be satisfied with the Israeli Government's explanation that Israel is a free state which does not direct its residents to this or that settlement.

The Finnish president warned that if the issue of territories does heat up—Jerusalem included—it could raise problems in terms of relations with the Arabs. Koivisto explained: Israel has a military and administrative responsibility for the territories and that is why the explanation that it is a free state is not acceptable.

According to him, the issue has a symbolic value for the Palestinians, and the Arabs have every reason to be critical. He added: I did not meet a single Arab who claimed that immigration to Israel should be prevented.

President Koivisto said that a messenger from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat expressed disappointment at the Finnish decision to allow immigrants to pass through it, but he also expressed understanding of this move. Koivisto added that the PLO has requested that the Jews be given an opportunity to stay in Finland or immigrate to other places. The Finnish president added: This is our attitude also, and that is why we will not tell them that Israel is their only destination.

'March of Return' Supports Palestinian Rights

Police Use Teargas

JN1405135690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] On the eve of the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, representatives of professional and popular organizations in the Kingdom today staged the biggest popular march in the region—the march of return, which set off early this morning from different parts of the country toward the King Husayn Bridge. More than 100,000 are estimated to have turned out for the march, led by presidents and representatives of Jordanian and Arab professional associations, Jordanian Senate and House members, members of the Palestine National Council, and religious Palestinian deportees.

The marchers carried Jordanian and Palestinian flags and banners praising Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion and unity of ranks and objectives. The slogans condemned the U.S. position hostile to Arab rights in Palestine and the strategic alliance between the United States and the Zionist entity. They called Jewish immigration to Palestine a virtual declaration of war on the Arab nation. The banners said the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian land constitutes a forward defense line for the Arab nation and Jordan—the strategic depth of the Arab nation. The participants lauded national unity and the cohesion of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, emphasizing that this unity adds up to a most potent weapon that should help us ride out challenges and reinforce the steadfastness of our country and our kinfolk in our occupied land. The crowds chanted that the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine and the occupied territory is a Zionist blueprint to realize the Greater Israel dream. They urged that a struggle be waged for peace and freedom, repatriation, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its eternal capital. They emphasized that Jordan has never hesitated to support the Palestinian cause, and underlined the need to revive the eastern front as a political bulwark for the intifadah and the steadfastness of Jordan.

At the end of the program of the demonstration set by the organizing committee, a number of marchers attempted to proceed to the King Husayn Bridge, despite pleas by organizers and parliament deputies that they stop at the designated point. Some participants, however, rushed toward the bridge and off-limits military zones. Security forces had, therefore, to step in and forcibly forestall them, hurling tear gas grenades. There were a number of injuries and some others were affected by the tear gas. They all received treatment.

JORDAN TIMES Reports

JN1505075590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 May 90 pp 1, 2

[By Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Over 25,000 Jordanian, Palestinian and Arab marchers Monday [14 May] made a strong show of solidarity with the Palestinians in the occupied territories from a site only two kilometres away from the King Husayn Bridge across the River Jordan.

Women and men thronged along the road to the bridge, emotionally bound in their goal to achieve the "right of return" for millions of Palestinians in the diaspora, in a march that was described as "successful" despite clashes between some of the marchers and police which resulted in 52 injuries, mostly of tear-gas inhalation.

Standing at the mid-point of the route, the line of marchers seemed too long to be seen in whole by the naked eye. As the line swerved closer to the bridge itself hundreds of men and women walked to the tunes of nationalistic songs and slogans promising Palestinians the liberation of their occupied homeland.

But the high-charged emotions and sentiments drawn out by the enormity of the march led to an unhappy ending. Some 2,000 participants who wanted to continue walking towards the bridge met with strong opposition from Jordanian anti-riot police and the encounter stretched into seven rounds of tear-gas fire to disperse the crowd followed by at least one round with phosphoric gas cannisters.

Fifty-two people were hospitalised and released after treatment for effects of tear-gas inhalation, dizziness and sunburns, according to officials.

"Fifty-two people were taken to hospital and were treated for reactions to the use of tear-gas but all of them have left hospital," Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah told the JORDAN TIMES. Anti-riot police also fired gunshots in the air to disperse the over-enthusiastic crowd.

A security source at the site of the clashes told the JORDAN TIMES that police "had to use phosphoric tear-gas cannisters and fire in the air to disperse the crowd after they ran out of lighter tear-gas" The source requested anonymity.

The clashes started after some of the marchers ignored the organisers' warnings to stay within the designated area for concluding the march situated at least two kilometres away from the small King Husayn Bridge and decided to head towards the bridge itself.

Police allowed the demonstrators to walk another 700 metres before they placed an armoured personnel carrier across the street to stop the marchers. While organisers pleaded with the crowd to return to the designated area, people continued to push ahead.

Army tanks started appearing from behind the small hills on the sides of the road but that move did not stop the crowds from trying to continue their march.

It was not immediately clear exactly how the clashes between the demonstrators and the anti-riot police

started but what seemed like a rain of tear-gas cannisters fell among the crowd which immediately retreated to some 50 metres.

People were running back in a frenzy trying to avoid the seemingly endless tear-gas attacks as more and more cannisters seemed to fall in their way back.

"I was running back; I wanted to get away but I couldn't. Every two steps another tear-gas cannister would fall in front or next to me and I was choking. It did not stop," a reporter who walked with the crowd to follow the developments noted.

Several witnesses said small groups among the crowd attempting to walk to the bridge hurled stones at the anti-riot police standing in their way.

Interior Minister Masa'idah told the JORDAN TIMES that "groups which adopted different emotional reactions seemed to cause this clash." The minister expressed regret that such an "initially successful march ended this way."

A security source told the JORDAN TIMES that although "official reports have not yet been received by the Public Security Department it seemed that some politically-affiliated groups were trying to incite the crowds."

The source explained that some political groups who participated in the march "had different goals than those of the organisers and they incited the crowds to continue marching."

However, the president of the Jordan doctor's association and orchestrator of the march, Dr. Mamduh 'Abbadi, said that the violence was "only a very small dark spot on a large white page which is the success of march itself.

In an interview with Jordan Television, 'Abbadi said that "impulsiveness and enthusiasm drove people to move outside the limits set out in the route map" provided by the Jordanian professional associations. "Since that particular area is mined and in order to safeguard (the participants) lives, police fired tear-gas to disperse the crowd," he said.

Report from Israel said the occupation authorities closed the King Husayn Bridge for half an hour "as a precautionary measure."

"This is sad. The people want to leave their mark hoping that their brothers in the West Bank could see that they were here to support them," a young man told the JORDAN TIMES while walking back.

"The march was successful despite the events that took place at its conclusion," the interior minister said. "What took place at the end marred the overall picture a little bit," he said.

"The march was also a success because of the numbers that turned out," one of the organisers said. "It is a first in Jordan, and probably in the whole Arab World," he added.

"Being unprecedented in scope and objectives, the said incidents that took place resulting from whatever little disorganisation and other reasons there were, the protest has to be seen as really successful."

Legislator Interviewed

JN1405200790 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 14 May 90

[Interview with Tahir al-Masri, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives and participant in 14 May march to King Husayn Bridge, organized by Jordanian professionals association; by Bayan al-Tall in the studio—live or recorded]

[Text] [Al-Tall] Mr. Masri, what was the purpose of the march?

[Al-Masri] It was a peaceful march aimed at exposing and highlighting the danger of the Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories, the danger on the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and the danger on Jordan. And the second aim was in solidarity with the intifadah.

[Al-Tall] You started on time, and everything went as you had planned, but towards the end, what happened?

[Al-Masri] Let me start from the beginning. In fact, I should say that it was a very successful march. It started on time and it fulfilled the purposes of the march and it was highly organized. Near the end, when were almost closing the march, some enthusiastic youth wanted to go down to the bridge because we were about 2,500 meters away from the bridge, and they continued going there, and because of the dangers around that area, it seems that the security forces decided that they should not go further than that point, which is one kilometer behind the point which we have pointed to. So, smoke and tear gas bombs were thrown on them.

[Al-Tall] And were there any injuries?

[Al-Masri] No, there were not injuries. The people, some people, were overcome by the gas. They fainted and they were taken to the hospital, it seems, and they left the hospital quite soon after that.

[Al-Tall] And everything was okay after that?

[Al-Masri] I think it was okay, and I think the action of the youth and reaction of the security forces was in the normal expectations; and when you have 40,000 marchers or around 40,000 marchers, you could expect such things, especially that it was an emotional day and an emotional cause, and those young people were looking towards Palestine and looking towards the heroes of the intifadah, and they were trying to show them that they wanted to come as close as possible to them. So, I think we should not overreact to the incident, and we should concentrate on the meaning and the purpose of the march. And I think, again I say, it was a clear, good, organized march.

[Al-Tall] Thank you.

King Receives Invitation to Arab Baghdad Summit

JN1305202490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at al-Nadwah Palace this evening Iraqi Justice Minister Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir, who relayed a letter from his brother President Saddam Husayn inviting his majesty to the Arab summit in Baghdad at the end of the month.

King Husayn on Summit, Democracy, Eastern Front

JN1205090890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 May 90 p 18

[Interview with King Husayn by Hafiz al-Shaykh, political commentator of the Bahraini daily AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, in Amman, "published in AL-RA'Y and the Bahraini paper at the same time today"; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Shaykh] Let us begin with the news of the moment. What is the latest regarding Jordan's efforts to convene the Arab summit?

[Husayn] I think current efforts are meeting success, and things seem to be moving in the right direction. The summit, God willing, will be convened soon. As far as we are concerned, Baghdad, of course, is the venue. This is the capital of an Arab country that struggled for and defended Arab order and offered many martyrs.

The convening of the summit in Baghdad at this particular stage takes on special significance, especially in light of the current campaign which is focusing on Iraq but targeting the entire Arab nation.

Never before have there been so many motives for the summit. The whole world has changed, and this part of the world, the Arab homeland, contains 65 percent of overall world oil reserves. It is, therefore, extremely important at present and in the future.

Moreover, does not this unified Arab nation in the entire Arab homeland—which faces various perils and challenges—deserve to be reorganized under the umbrella of pan-Arab security in all its dimensions, with a view to safeguarding our national Arab rights and doing our duty to future generation?

I believe that all these motives and reasons make it imperative for the summit to be held on schedule and to have a successful outcome. Through this summit, we must be able to rise to the aspirations of the Arabs in the entire Arab nation.

[Al-Shaykh] Are you optimistic about the Syrian leadership attending the summit in Baghdad, especially given the importance of the Syrian position in the eastern front?

[Husayn] Syria is unquestionably a fraternal Arab country and an important part of the Arab homeland, occupying a significant place on the Arab map. Naturally therefore, I do not think it will be easy to justify Syria's absence from the summit in Baghdad.

By the same token, I do not think our brothers in the host country—Iraq—will, God forbid, show any negligence in rendering the summit a success and in receiving their brothers with all hospitality and care so that the summit can succeed.

I am now speaking as an Arab citizen. I hope that we all appear like brothers who rise above their wounds and believe that only the nation will last. I hope that everyone will shoulder his responsibility so that we all, God willing, will be in good shape and agree on all things through meaningful and constructive dialogue.

Furthermore, we must make the world feel that we, the Arabs, have rights, and that we are determined to move toward our goals and objectives as a united, cohesive unit.

I think that this summit in particular and at this particular time must be different from the previous ones. This summit should be characterized by frankness, clarity, and openness, and it must permit us to walk on solid ground, with everyone determined to abide by the resulting agreements to serve Arab man and Arab destiny.

[Al-Shaykh] Can we then be optimistic that the summit will be held in the middle of this month?

[Husayn] I think the date will, at any rate, be before the end of the current month.

[Al-Shaykh] Talking about Iraq, does your majesty expect the current campaign against Iraq to develop in the near future into a direct Zionist aggression against Iraq's military facilities?

[Husayn] I cannot say that Israel may try something, but I am certain that our fragmentation and the lack of necessary coordination and full cooperation among us may help Israel to attack Iraq once again if it wanted to and encourage it to continue its policy in the occupied territories and toward all of us.

If we take Iraq as a target of any Israeli aggression, Israel will certainly not be able to achieve the purpose of its aggression, except through lack of Arab-Arab relations. Inter-Arab relations, therefore, must be strong and coherent.

In addition to this, the whole world has changed. We, of course, are talking about human rights and demanding that the world recognize Arab rights, especially the rights of the Palestinian people on Palestinian national soil.

The issues pertaining to human rights are sacred to us, but we are afraid that the world is now preoccupied with many international developments.

To sum up the new international situation, it can be said, perhaps, that we all face an impending danger that threatens to abuse and steal Arab human rights more than ever before.

In addition to the suffering of our kinfolk and brothers in the occupied Palestinian territories, there have recently been unjust campaigns against our Arab nation.

The fact is that the State of Palestine and its leadership, which we recognized, presented through the PLO all that it was asked to present. This, of course, has accumulated in its assets in political action and in world support to regain Palestinian Arab rights on the national Palestinian soil.

At the same time, the Jewish emigration to Palestine has continued and the Zionist settlements continue in the occupied territory, even in the holy city of Jerusalem, where the Jewish settlers are today desecrating Islamic and Christian holy places. Meanwhile, a curfew is being imposed on Nabulus and the Zionist girls are dancing in its streets. And this continues.

This is the situation today. The conflict continues in the political arena in Israel between the two political trends. We find that the trend of extremism and violence, which depends on continued support from all the Jews in the world—through their effect on the major superpower in this world today—is gaining.

Therefore, the Arabs are facing all these challenges today. I believe that the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad should straighten out matters, particularly when we can make Israel feel that the Arabs seek a just and honorable peace and that they are determined to adopt one position to defend their rights to life and to the occupied homeland. And those in Israel should realize that not all doors are open for them to embark on adventures whenever they like and to reach to wherever they want.

Today, we are facing a danger that is no less than the danger we faced from 1948 until the beginning of the new emigration to occupied Palestine presently underway. The failure to convene the summit under these circumstances will—in my opinion—be explained by the Palestinians and Jordanians as a complete relinquishment of Palestine and Jordan. And we acquit ourselves of facing this, whether consciously or unconsciously. Therefore, there should be a meeting, a summit, and an action. God willing, we will all be ready for this big event, that is, the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad.

[Al-Shaykh] With regard to the frequent and known Zionist adventures, what is your majesty's explanation of the Israeli aggression on the royal yacht on 27 April, particularly in these specific circumstances?

[Husayn] Unquestionably, we find that this matter definitely arouses attention, and we feel that this subject must be raised, at least on the diplomatic level.

[Al-Shaykh] Is there an intention to raise the subject on the diplomatic level?

[Husayn] The matter was raised with some sides, so that they can try to inquire about the reasons and intentions. We want to caution that what took place might take place in a worse form in the future.

[Al-Shaykh] Your Majesty The King, we will return to the Jordanian arena today. We congratulate you on the democratic life; we,,in fact, congratulate ourselves. The question is: Are you optimistic at the continuation of the democratic option? Does your majesty not see any dangers in the Jordanian democratic experiment—whether internal dangers or foreign, Arab, and regional dangers?

[Husayn] The dangers are very great. However, the decision of democracy is final. We have great hope in God that we will reach a stage in which we will become a good example, God willing, to our Arab brothers and to others in the world.

[Al-Shaykh] Your Majesty The King, the democratic experiment in Jordan is discordant with the prevailing Arab climate, therefore, do you expect any inconvenience from this Jordanian democracy on the regional level?

[Husayn] God willing, all our brothers will be satisfied with the success of this experiment, which will make the Jordanian citizen in this part of the Arab world feel the great responsibilities that he and his fellow citizens should shoulder.

There is a big hope that everyone will realize—through their knowledge of the Jordanian citizen and through his behavior—that in this country there is pluralism in the full sense of the word. This country, however, remains part of the entire Arab homeland.

We should assume our responsibilities and carry out our duties in order to continue the course for which we opted a long time ago. It is time we resumed the march after the disengagement with the West Bank. This is the truth and the freedom which we followed before others in the world.

We hope that the royal commission, which represents all intellectual trends in Jordan and all the sons and daughters in Jordan, will succeed in formulating the National Charter. I believe that no person will last forever; we all will perish. But this people and this nation will remain.

In my personal opinion, we as leaders should do the impossible to unite the people and make them agree among themselves. We should provide them with the wherewithal to learn about everything and to take part in shouldering their responsibility. This is the real guarantee for the continuation of the democratic option.

[Al-Shaykh] Speaking of the charter commission, I heard that ordinary Jordanians and some others are wondering why the trade unions were not represented in the commission. This is creating apprehension and concern that the charter commission will reflect the ideas and interests of the elite and not the masses. What is your majesty's opinion?

[Husayn] The commission is not at all meant to reflect the opinion of a certain class of people in Jordan to the exclusion of others. Naturally, we could not form a

commission from all the people of Jordan without exception. Some might cherish such ideas or concepts. You mention trade unions as an example. A trade union is in itself supposed to represent various strata of the Jordanian society. Actually, we opted to choose the commission in this manner so that it could be a means for our interaction with people, since it is representing all schools of thought in Jordan. Some may say the number of the commission members is greater than it should be, and vice versa. I tried and did my best in what we achieved, and perhaps the way the commission came out was for the best.

[Al-Shaykh] Some forces in Jordan have recently begun to speak out strongly about jihad and opening the eastern front. Does your majesty fear that this trend might lead to an early Jordanian involvement or to a premature military confrontation with Israel?

[Husayn] Jordan is fully conscious and aware of its major pan-Arab responsibilities, which go beyond Jordan's borders to include the entire Arab homeland. These are our responsibilities toward the whole Arab nation. Moreover, Jordan is closer to Palestine than all others, whether due to geographic location, responsibility, history, or the de facto situation in Jordan. Jordan is naturally experiencing the suffering and pain caused by the Palestinian situation, which is worrying Jordan day and night and on all levels. But this situation, as I have said, requires work, awareness, solidity, and determination.

Let us be clear in our conversation. We have a 420-km common border with Palestine, and this is naturally the longest Arab frontline with Israel. Despite this tremendously long border with Palestine and despite our limited material resources, the major fact that remains is that Jordan practically forms a great wall. If this wall—God forbid—falls down, the entire Arab homeland will be exposed to danger. I do not know what our nation can do if this great wall—God forbid—falls down, and how this nation will then be able to reorganize itself and how much it will cost in terms of effort and funds to redress the huge damage and again manage to protect itself and its future.

We are confronting Israel, which is continuously and ceaselessly supplied with all material, military, and moral support, and which is backed by major powers. We are standing along this confrontation line with nothing behind us to support oursleves except hope in our nation. It is hoped that this nation will rise to the required level before it is too late.

[Al-Shaykh] I wonder, Your Majesty, if I can ask you about "the Arab wagering" on the United States—if I am allowed to use such an expression—and where this wagering is leading us. For example, we used to see the U.S. Administration intervene whenever a draft resolution unacceptable to it was presented to Congress. But what happened recently is that the Senate and the House of Representatives passed a resolution recognizing Jerusalem as an eternal capital for Israel. Nevertheless, the U.S. Administration did not move a finger, although it could have intervened—as it usually does—to quash this resolution, or at least tone it down or change its wording.

[Husayn] During our diplomatic contacts with the United States on this subject on the highest levels, we obtained reassurances that these resolutions are not binding on the Administration. This is so, although the resolution adopted by Congress—that is by both the Senate and House of Representatives—has greatly annoyed us. We not only consider this resolution an interference in matters that do not concern the Congress, but also an aberrant incident which might—as we are all aware—reflect the extent of the Zionist influence on decisionmakers in the United States. This situation should be carefully studied by us in order to soundly and creatively deal with it.

As for the situation in general, I think that before blaming others for their attitude toward us we should now begin to look around and within ourselves. Only when we make up our minds to shift gears and use our energies and capabilities to serve the Arab individual and his destiny, safeguard his dignity, and defend his rights—only then can we move to address the United States, the Soviet Union, and other states with a different language. I do not mean only strong language, but also the language through which others are made aware that we are a nation among the living nations on this earth, a nation that is determined to live and safeguard its rights. And we have the ability to do this, God willing. [passage omitted]

Syrian Party Official Assassinated in Mar Ilyas

NC1505133890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] At about 1130 today, an unidentified gunman assassinated Khalid Raydan, a Syrian Social Nationalist Party official, while he was inside the al-Qubaysi butcher shop in the Mar Ilyas area.

Irish Envoy Arrives To Discuss Hostage Keenan

NC1405165790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] (Antoine Macingrade), the Irish ambassador accredited to Lebanon, Cyprus, Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait, arrived in Beirut from Amman today on a visit for a few days to Lebanon. During his visit he will have consultations concerning Irish national Brian Keenan who has been held hostage in Lebanon for over four years now.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Government has approved the accreditation of Gary Harman, resident Canadian ambassador in Damascus, as nonresident ambassador to Lebanon.

The government has also approved the appointment of (William Latham) as new UNICEF representative in Beirut in place of (Andre Robert Farois) who has been transferred to a new post.

Hizballah Calls For Israel To Release Detainees

NC1505074090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Hizballah has called for Israel and the agent Lahd militia to unconditionally release the Lebanese they hold. A responsible Hizballah source affirmed to AFP that Israel and its agents are the aggressors and kidnappers. They must unconditionally release all the detainees they kidnapped in Lebanon, the source said, adding: We will then discuss the rest.

The Hizballah source said that the practices of Israel and its agent Lahd in occupied southern Lebanon are a flagrant violation of the human rights the West upholds.

Al-Husayni Hints Lebanon Not To Attend Summit

LD1405143390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1238 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 14 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad Monday conferred with Lebanese Parliament speaker Husayn al-Husayni, currently visiting the country.

The meeting was attended by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid, Lebanese ambassador in Kuwait Adnan Badrah, and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-Husayni told newsmen following the meeting that he and Shaykh Sabah discussed all aspects of the Lebanese issue, praising the deputy premier and foreign minister's efforts toward resolving the Lebanese problem.

Shaykh Sabah had chaired an Arab League six-member committee, which met last year with various Lebanese political and religious leaderships in Kuwait, Tunis, Damascus and Beirut.

The committee had gathered its views regarding the Lebanese problem and referred them to the 1989 Casablanca summit, which authorised the formation of a three-man committee, grouping Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco.

Al-Husayni once again hinted that his country will not attend that extraordinary Arab summit, due to open in Baghdad May 28.

Al-Husayni denied that he had known of a report saying that Kuwait had some reservation at the Casablanca summit on a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

He also denied a statement by U.S. Ambassador in Beirut John McCarthy that former army commander Gen. Michel 'Awn is receiving arms through Syria and said: "No to the U.S. ambassador and no to anyone else, because I have no knowledge on this subject."

'Awn Said Ready To Step Down If Bishops Ask

NC1505094590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 May 90

[Excerpt] In a statement full of blackmail and exaggeration, General Michel 'Awn said that he will step down voluntarily if asked to do so by the Maronite Bishops Council headed by Patriarch Sfayr and as long as the clergymen in question assume full responsibility for the outcome of such a move.

'Awn, who continues to create a world of illusions for his entourage, was cited as saying at a meeting with officers that preparations are underway to change the current map in the near future.

In another development, Army Commander General Emile Lahhud has described Michel 'Awn as being a liar and a charlatan who lusts for power. Gen. Lahhud said that 'Awn will not last for more than one month. 'Awn, Lahhud said, will wage a decisive battle—as he promised his officers—to try to change the situation and will then step down. Lahhud said that 'Awn's sole interest is to stay in power a little longer.

In an interview with the magazine AL-SHIRA', Gen. Lahhud said that he had a long-standing dispute with 'Awn that was renewed only when the latter declared his so-called liberation war, which is no more than a lie. The army commander said that his dispute with 'Awn dates back to the deals that 'Awn used to make and the commissions he used to take when he was an army commander. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: 'No Content' at Baghdad Summit

JN1505100390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, headlined "What is Important is the Content, Not the Form of the Summit," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: There is an atmosphere of amazement and astonishment among all those following reports on the Arab summit, supposed to be held in Baghdad before the end of May. Amazement over the spectacle aimed at forcing all Arabs to accept the time and venue of the summit increases when we know that there will be no content to this summit, even if it is concealed under cover of the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and means of confronting it, or has the guise of the need for Arab solidarity to deter all dangers threatening the nation from all directions. The Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and the threats posed by settling them in the occupied Arab territories is an issue that affects the Arabs to different extents. By all standards, however, it certainly affects Syria. The need for Arab solidarity to confront Zionist dangers is probably for each Arab country a function of their geographical and pan-Arab proximity to the lines of confrontation with the Zionist entity. However, it is primary to Syria's position, role, history, and existence in the heart of the pan-Arab battle, which in Syria has never abated throughout the past 50 years.

AL-BA'TH wonders: What summit is this that will achieve Arab solidarity in Syria's absence? What summit is this that will discuss the means of confronting dangers threatening the Arab nation without Syria? What summit is this that will set new rules for the march of Arab action, while the fortress of pan-Arab action is outside its halls? The bad intentions, or the mistake which we cannot view with good intentions, imposed on the Arabs a time and venue for the summit which all sides knew in advance Syria would not approve. This is aimed at driving a new wedge in Arab relations at a time when there were speedy efforts underway to heal rifts. Such a mistake was meant to foment Arab sedition, stop Arab solidarity halfway, and to instill further despair, frustration, and loss in our pan-Arab fabric in the interest of the nation's enemies, particularly Israel.

Commentary Warns Against Baghdad's Summit 'Game'

JN1405160190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When some Arab parties, chiefly Syria, call for building up Arab solidarity and persistently underscore the importance of solidarity at this stage, it is because the Arab nation can no longer afford the luxury of minor differences between one country and another in light of the snowballing, imminent dangers facing it. Syria, therefore, has taken the lead in word and deed to clear the atmosphere and eliminate any traces of differences in its relationships with other Arab countries, except for its relations with those rulers whose malignancy has blinded their vision to the extent that they see Syria as their sole enemy.

At this stage, the slogan of Arab solidarity is equivalent to the slogan of fighting the growing Zionist danger, especially in light of the fresh emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union. Syria's viewpoint is that this danger will spare no one, and that it will have the same effect on us all. Therefore, there must be a collective response and a single standpoint.

Neither Syria nor any of the Arabs who responded to the call of solidarity have entertained any thoughts of using this call for a personal, private purpose. The danger is immense, and, therefore, this narrow viewpoint is unthinkable. However, the spiteful rulers of Baghdad; who have always turned a blind eye to the basic and crucial danger facing the Arabs; who, since their assumption of power, have sought to distract Arab attention from the major issues to trivialities; and who have engaged Iraq in minor disputes, squandered its energies and part of the Arab Nation's energies and capabilities, have once more returned to carry out their subversive role. For, as soon as the call for an Arab summit was made—in order to embody the call for solidarity in a specific, clear, and agreed-upon strategy, and to deal with the current grave stage our nation is passing through—they exploited this call, not in order to reach the noble objective all Arabs are aspiring to through this summit, but rather for selfish, egotistic, and narrow aims. Thus, those rulers have clung tenaciously to the issue of the summit venue, ignoring the objective behind the summit. Moreover, they have expressed in many statements their intention to turn the occasion into a carnival of applause and ovation.

Syria has been the prime defender of the unity of Arab ranks and solidarity because it has always pinpointed the source of the real danger threatening this nation. Moreover, it has continuously opposed this danger. Because of this, the prime concern of those [Iraqi] rulers was to hatch plots against Syria and prevent it from attending the summit or playing any role in it.

Syria, however, has been aware of this game right from the start. Syria has warned and is still warning against the consequences of this game. Other Arab rulers have recognized the implications of this game. As they unequivocally said: What is the meaning of any summit to discuss the crucial issues of the nation, primarily the Zionist danger, if Syria does not attend?

Furthermore, the Baghdad rulers have continued their familiar subversive role to distract Arab attention to what is marginal and to give precedence to trivia rather than the major issues, hoping to turn the summit into a carnival of solidarity with themselves and their posts, regardless of whether this takes place at the expense of the principal issue the Arab leaders are coming to discuss in order to formulate a unified stance. They are still holding fast to their positions in disregard of the dire

consequences these will have on Arab solidarity in particular and the basic Arab issue in general.

Once again, Syria is warning that the danger over the Arab sky does not afford the luxury of succumbing to the biddings of this or that ruler. The Arab summit should rise above the level of individual interests or personal leaderships. Neither should it serve suspicious, narrow objectives. Surrender to a blackmail of this kind will make questionable Arab capability to oppose bigger and more dangerous blackmail by the enemies.

Sudanese Minister Brings Message for Al-Asad

JN1505094690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, Sudanese interior minister and member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], and his delegation arrived in Damascus at 2200 last night.

He was received at Damascus international airport by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah.

In a statement to SANA, Abu-Salih said that he is carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother NSRCC Chairman 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, on the current situation in Sudan, relations between the two fraternal countries, and issues of common interest.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Reported

BK1405163490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured five Kabul regime security posts, shot down a warplane, and hit several tanks in their operations in various provinces. Four posts were captured in Nangarhar and one in Balkh Province. The warplane was shot down near Khowst following an intense artillery attack by mujahidin. In Samangan Province, six armored personnel carriers and 10 oil tankers of a supply caravan were destroyed on the (Aibastoli)-Pol-e Khomri Highway.

Regime Source Reports on Provincial Operations

LD1405175890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province are mainly in their previous defensive positions and a number of units and companies are involved in consolidating those new positions which they captured after pushing back the armed extremists supported by Pakistan from Kama and Shewa.

Quoting an authoritative source in the Armed Forces, a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section report states that armed extremists, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis have fired heavy weapons sporadically during the last four days at residential areas of Jalalabad city, and at a number of Nangarhar garrison's security posts. In retaliation, the enemy's resistance points were subjected to air and artilery attacks. As a result of these attacks and combat operations by our units and companies, 244 soldiers of the joint enemy forces were put out of action during the last four days, and their five vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, four sytems for launching rocket projectiles, one BM-1 launching system, two BM-12 launching systems, one 122 mm gun, and ammunition depot, three mortars and 10 types of various machine guns were destroyed.

As result of fire by Pakistan-supported extremists, one soldier from our units and companies was killed and 13 local people and three Armed Forces personnel were wounded during the last four days. The units and companies enjoy a high state of combat readiness and carry out their duties with a high combat morale.

A number of our units and companies carried out mopping up operations on 10 May around those new positions which they captured in the direction of Behsud. As a result, 140 recoilless gun shells, 50 mortar shells, and 15 cases of shells for various types of machine guns were seized.

The source adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces in Khowst major district are mainly engaged in condolidation and fortification of their previous positions; and are ready to foil any attacks by the warmongers.

In the last four days armed extremists, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis have fired heavy weapons sporadically at Khowst city and the security posts located around it, from the direction of the south, southwest and southeast. In order to prevent these criminal actions the armed extremists' positions were subjected to air and artillery attacks. As a result 104 persons were put out of action during the last four days, and four vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, two 122 mm guns and three systems for launching rocket projectiles were destroyed. As a result of fire by the warmongers, three Armed Forces personnel and four civilians, including a child, were wounded.

According to the same source, units and companies of the Armed Forces in Qandahar remain in their previous positions and carry out their national and patriotic tasks with a high combat morale. During the last four days, armed extremists, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis have fired heavy weapons at a number of the residential areas and security posts around Qandahar and Qalat cities. In retaliation for these actions the positions and grouping points of the warmongers were attacked by our air and artillery forces. As a result 12 people were killed and their two mortars, a rocket launcher and two systems for launching rocket projectiles were destroyed.

The source adds that on 7 May a number of the units and companies carried out mopping up and combat operations, in order to crush the armed extremists who were disturbing the peaceful life of the people in the villages of Moghol, Kona Qeshlak, Eshari and Dasht-e Baliaba, Badakhshan Province, by firing heavy weapons. As a result 115 armed and unarmed enemies including Rahmatullah and 'Abdul Rauf, two ringleaders, were captured and three were killed. Twenty strongholds were destroyed and six villages were cleared of their existence.

*USSR Allegedly Increases Advisers, Aid

90AS0056B Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 25 Apr 90 p 11

[Text] Islamabad—FRANCE PRESS—26 Farvardin—15 April. USSR has increased the number of its "advisers" in Afghanistan to 500.

According to Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad, the number of Soviet "advisers," which was 300 last summer, has increased since last December simultaneous with the appearance of unrest within the Afghan army. According to these sources, these "advisers" work essentially in the information and defense sector in support of the regime of "Najib." It seems that Moscow's decision to increase the number of Soviet advisers was made after the increase of rivalries deep within the People's Democratic (ruling) Party of Afghanistan, between the Parcham faction of General Najib and the

Khalq faction, which is very influential among the military. It should be mentioned that last October, the government of Afghanistan denied the rumors about the presence of Soviets on the long-range, land-to-land Scud missile platforms. They had announced the number of their "military advisers" to be fewer than a hundred. According to REUTERS, the Soviet Union has also increased the delivery of military equipment, foodstuff, and fuel to Afghanistan. A high-ranking Western diplomat said in this regard that the value of the total provisions sent by the Soviet Union presently amounts to $350-450 million per month. This figure was $300 million per month last year. He pointed out that the arms and ammunition make up about 80 percent of these figures.

The Return of 6,000 Afghan Mujahid to Their Country

On the other hand, the Afghan mujahidin residing in 339 camps in Pakistan have begun to return to their country. So far, more than 6,000 refugees have returned to their country.

According to a report from Islamabad by IRNA, the JANG newspaper published this report in its last issue: Dozens of other refugee families are preparing to return to Afghanistan. The officials of the camps have not put pressure on the refugees in this regard. They are returning to Afghanistan willingly.

Quoting a number of Afghan refugees, this newspaper writes: Najib, under the pretext of his so-called reconciliation plan, is trying to entrap the mujahidin and the refugees; thus, he found it necessary that they settle on Afghan soil to strengthen the movement.

*Independent Parties Discuss Common Front

90AS0060B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] The leaders of the independent combatant groups in Afghanistan, Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, Qazi Amin Waqqad, and Mawlawi Rafi'ullah Mu'azin, met and spoke last Thursday [19 April] with Dr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs.

In these meetings, the leaders of the independent groups praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's positive position regarding the Afghanistan question. They said: The important thing is to form an Islamic government in the future and for the people of Afghanistan to determine their own fate.

Welcoming the measures taken by the Afghan Shiite groups for unity and forming a party of unity, he said: All the parties must be formed into a single common front that represents all the people of Afghanistan.

The above leaders continued, saying: The formation of a congress composed of all the crusading parties of Afghanistan in the Islamic Republic of Iran could prepare the way for such a front.

According to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, Mr. Velayati referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's good relations with the Muslim fighters of Afghanistan, and he emphasized the need to create greater understanding between the Muslim groups of Afghanistan in order to achieve common goals. He expressed the continued support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

*Hekmatyar Outlines Proposal To End Crisis

90AS0060A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Apr 90 p 18

[Text] Islamabad, Pakistan—News Agencies: The leader of Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] announced that Shahnawaz Tanai, the leader of the latest Kabul coup d'etat, is in Afghanistan under the protection of this party and if Najib, the president of the Kabul regime, surrenders unconditionally, he will become a member. He also announced his proposal for ending the Afghanistan problem.

The newspaper JANG reports: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar stated in a press conference in Islamabad that new military operations against the hand-picked Kabul regime are likely to begin soon.

He said: The regime's forces have become weary of war and want to join the mujahidin. Hekmatyar denied that the Islamic Party would have seized power if the latest coup had succeeded in Afghanistan. He said: The Islamic Party will not back away from its position that it is necessary to form an Islamic government in Afghanistan, and while it rejects the current interim government, it is prepared to talk with the various parties to form a new interim government. He regarded the return of Afghan emigrants to Afghanistan in the event of the fall of Najib's regime as practical and possible, and he proposed four ways to end the problem of Afghanistan.

The leader of Hezb-e Eslami, explaining these proposals, said: The first proposal is that elections be held in 241 of the 282 districts and wards in Afghanistan under Mujahidin control, and that the elected representatives, under a general amnesty, produce a draft Constitution. The second proposal is that the current interim government, with the support of all parties, form an election commission and make preparations for a general election.

Concerning the third proposal, Hekmatyar said:

After the fall of the Kabul regime a council composed of the army, officials outside the Khalq Party, and the mujahidin commanders should be formed during the six months of general elections to transfer power to the representatives elected by the people.

In conclusion, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami gave as his fourth proposal an end to military aid from America, the Soviet Union, and other countries to the warring parties in the Afghan conflict, in order to cut off the hand of

Najib's regime. He said: With an end to foreign military aid the mujahidin will not be far from victory.

On the other hand, the JANG report also states that on Monday Hekmatyar met with Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the president of the republic of Pakistan, and informed him of the latest developments in Afghanistan. In this meeting views were exchanged on current efforts to form a comprehensive government in Afghanistan, and the Pakistani president gave assurances that his country would continue its assistance to the Afghan Mujahidin.

The newspaper JANG added: Also in this meeting with the president of Pakistan, Hekmatyar informed him of the indirect contacts the Soviets have had with the Afghan leaders.

Execution of Two Former Kabul Regime Ministers

Following last month's coup d'etat against Najib's regime, the Kabul regime executed two of its former ministers, and ousted two other people in the framework of a purge.

According to Western diplomatic sources in Pakistan, the detention of high government officials and party cadres as well as shake-ups in the government are continuing. According to these sources, the two executed ministers were Ghulam Dastgir Panjshiri and Salih Mamad Zarras. Both were members of the political office, and were executed along with five other members of this office. According to this report, the ministers fired were Abdul Wakil (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Sulayman 'Ali Layeq (Ministry of Border Affairs).

Bangladesh

Indian Warships Begin Chittagong 'Goodwill' Visit

BK1405033890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Three Indian naval ships arrived at Chittagong port on a three-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. The contingent led by Commodore K.S. Kaushal consists of two minesweepers, INS [Indian Naval Ship] Karwar and INS Kakinara, and one landing ship, INS Cheeta. The Indian ships were received by the Bangladesh naval chief and the Chittagong Port Authority. This is the first goodwill visit to Bangladesh by Indian naval ships after Bangladesh attained independence in 1971.

Bangladesh-PRC 3-Day Investors' Forum Underway

Project Documents Signed

BK1305161390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Bangladesh and China have signed 11 memorandums of understanding and 27 letters of intent for setting up 50 different kinds of projects. A forum is now holding a three-day session in Dhaka. The projects include mini-cement plants; mini-paper mills; manufacture of electrical accessories, bicycle chains, and mechanical toys.

Further Agreements Signed

BK1505060690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Bangladesh-China investors forum ended in Dhaka today with the signing of several agreements for cooperation in different industrial sectors.

Five contracts and agreements were signed, 13 memorandums of understanding reached, and 49 letters of intent exchanged during the three-day discussion.

Speaking at the concluding session, Vice President Moudud Ahmed said the forum has been a great success. It will bring entrepreneurs of the two countries closer and contribute to further strengthening of bilateral economic cooperation. Over 200 Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and 71 Chinese investors took part in the forum.

Earlier, members of the Chinese delegation called on President Ershad in Dhaka this morning. The president told them that their (?visit) will further cement the existing friendly and cordial relations between the two countries. He noted with happiness that China has been participating in the private sector investment in Bangladesh on equal footing. Members of the delegation appreciated the investment policy of the government.

India

5 Pakistani Soldiers Reportedly Killed on Border

BK1505005890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1902 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 14 (AFP)—Five Pakistani soldiers were killed and an unspecified number were wounded Monday [14 May] in an exchange of gunfire with Indian troops on the border of disputed Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. The skirmish, lasting more than four hours, took place in the Poonch sector of the line of control set up at the end of the third and last Indian-Pakistan war in late 1971, PTI said.

Five Pakistani soldiers died and an unknown number were wounded, the report said, quoting unidentified official sources in Jammu, the winter capital of Indian Jammu and Kashmir State. The sources said the shooting erupted in the morning when Indian troops in the Bagaldira and Sokar areas of Poonch objected to Pakistani construction of bunkers and trenches in the "no man's land" separating the two sides. The sources did not say if Indian forces suffered any losses.

But a spokesman from the northern command of the Indian army in Jammu denied any Pakistani or Indian troops had been killed on the border Monday. "Neither any Indian nor any Pakistani was killed, though there were exchanges of fire at two-three places in Poonch and

Mendhar sectors of the border," the spokesman said when asked about the PTI report.

Counterinsurgent Troops Brought Into Kashmir

BK1505012490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1752 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 14 (AFP)—A large number of specially trained anti-guerrilla troopers have been brought into Kashmir as renewed violence in the sensitive northern border region has left eight people dead, officials said Monday [14 May]. An influential Kashmiri Moslem religious leader-cum-politician in the meantime said Monday that the campaign for independence from India would continue until victory.

Officials in Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir State, said security forces in Kashmir had been reinforced by two battalions, consisting of some 2,000 men, of the tough Assam Rifles who were brought in from Assam State, about 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) to the East. The Assam Rifles is a paramilitary force specially trained to fight armed guerrillas operating in the northeastern hill regions bordering Bangladesh, Bhutan and Burma. The tribal Nagas, in Nagaland, are one of the main groups fighting for independence in the northeast.

Security forces shot dead three Moslem militants on Kashmir's border with Pakistan who were allegedly trying to sneak into India with weapons, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. The three were killed in a five-kilometer (three-mile) stretch of the border belt demarcating India and Pakistan, which have fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947 over Kashmir. No details of the killings were available, and it was not immediately clear whether the deaths occurred Monday or late Sunday [13 May].

PTI said security forces on Monday recovered two bodies in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and three more bodies were found elsewhere in the Moslem-dominated state. All of them bore gunshot wounds.

The identity of the victims was not immediately known, but they were believed to have died in the bloody Moslem militant campaign for an independent Kashmir that has left more than 475 people dead so far this year.

Moslem militants also shot and critically wounded a woman member of the mainly Moslem National Conference Party in Srinagar's Zainakadal area Monday, PTI said. No details were available.

The fresh violence came amid a general strike that crippled Srinagar's commercial areas and transportation Monday, despite a nine-hour relaxation in an indefinite curfew in the city. Which is the separatist campaign's urban hub. [as received]

The strike was called by the Moslem Awami Action Committee to protest against alleged excesses by Indian security forces against Moslems, who have taken to the streets by the thousands across Kashmir in recent months to protest indian rule.

Meanwhile, Mirwaiz Moulvi Mohammad Farooq, a prominent Kashmiri Moslem leader, said Monday that no amount of government suppression could quell the continuing mass campaign for self-determination in Kashmir. Mr. Farooq, who also heads the Awami Action Committee, urged New Delhi to give up "its present policy of suppression (and) brutal killings." He said in a statement issued in Srinagar that the Kashmir campaign was "nothing but a popular struggle for attaining basic human, fundamental and political rights, particularly the right of self-determination," which the Kashmiri Moslems were "determined to secure ...at all costs." The statement, copies of which were also made available here, added that the movement "cannot be suppressed by armed might or any amount of force."

India has accused neighbouring Pakistan of arming and training the Kashmir militants. Pakistan, which controls the northern third of Kashmir, has denied the charge but has pledged moral support for the campaign.

Paper Scorns Bhutto Offer of Talks on Kashmir

BK1205150990 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 May 90 p 11

[Editorial: "Calling the Pak Bluff"]

[Text] Ms. Benazir Bhutto will only display political naivete if she believed that she could talk India into a dialogue over Kashmir. Every time a foreign dignitary visits Islamabad she uses the occasion to give the impression that Pakistan does not want a conflict with India, and it wants a negotiated settlement with this country. She did so when French President Mitterrand was in Islamabad some time ago, and she repeated it during Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's visit to Pakistan earlier this week. Ms. Bhutto is not naive. She knows full well she must continue to talk about negotiation as long as she can confuse the world opinion about the nature of Pakistan's involvement in India's internal affairs. Islamabad feels emboldened by the fact that the United States has not accepted the evidence India made available to it about Pakistan training, arming and assisting Kashmir militants in various ways. A US State Department official recently testified before a Congressional committee that the Bush Administration had no evidence of the Pakistan government's involvement in the trouble in Kashmir, although he refused to testify in public whether some elements of the Pakistan government were involved in the mater. Ms. Bhutto should live under no illusion that the hair-splitting she is indulging in by trying to distinguish her government from the military intelligence outfit known as the ISI [Interservices Intelligence] will confound and immobilise India. As Prime Minister she cannot escape taking responsibility for the ISI's actions.

Mr. I.K. Gujral has done the right thing to promptly reject Ms. Bhutto's conditional offer of talks. First, there

is no question of a dialogue with Pakistan until Islamabad has proved by its acts that it has ceased interference in Kashmir. Secondly, Pakistan must also have no confusion about what it can discuss with India. It has been made abundantly clear to Islamabad that Kashmir's accession to India is final and non-negotiable. The only residual issue relates to the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which can be discussed within the framework of bilateral negotiation as set out in the Simla Agreement. Pakistan has clearly reneged on the accord by persistently trying to internationalise the Kashmir issue, and reports suggest that it is trying to rake up the matter at the June meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference [OIC]. Any OIC attempt to interfere in the affairs of India would be as unwelcome to India as is Pakistan's proposal for a "neutral surveillance mechanism" for Kashmir. It is still not too late for Islamabad to realise that its double-talk and subversion in Kashmir would not change its status. Nor will a policy of confrontation with India stabilise and promote Pakistan's fledgling democracy.

Editorial Criticizes Bhutto Policy on Kashmir

BK1405101090 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 May 90 p 8

[Editorial: "The Same Old Trick"]

[Text] Ms. Benazir Bhutto has characteristically blown hot and cold in response to Mr. V.P. Singh's conciliatory stance. He had offered to take "two steps" forward to resolve the Kashmir dispute if the Pakistan Prime Minister took one. What she in turn has said amounts to appearing to take one step forward while actually taking two backward. This is the plain meaning of her willingess to negotiate "in the spirit" of Simla Agreement "and on the basis" of the worn-out UN proposals of 42 years ago. This was the forked-tongue technique perfected by the late Gen. Zia. She is following in his footsteps. The only change she has made is in embellishing the late army dictatorship's rhetoric with self-righteous talk of honouring the lofty principle of self-determination. She has found it possible to do this because of a series of brutual murders committed in the Khashmir Valley by Pak-trained and Pak-armed desperadoes in recent weeks. She naturally finds it expedient to harp on the theme that this terrorism is a "popular uprising".

Fortunately, the high-pitched propaganda of this kind launched by Islamabad has not misled international opinion. In the western media, more and more stories about both overt and covert activities on the Pakistan side of the line of actual control in Kashmir designed to terrorise people in the Valley are being published. Likewise, it has been increasingly realised in the world capitals, as has been borne out by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Toshiki Kaifu's perceptive pronouncements in New Delhi as well as Islamabad, that the only way of breaking the stalemate over Kashmir is to get down to the task of implementing the Simla Agreement in good faith.

That this is only realistic way of opening a new chapter in Indo-Pak relations is crystal clear. And going by Ms. Benazir Bhutto's own initial statements after assuming office, she knows this. The trouble is that since then she seems to have chosen to play second fiddle to the Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI] which has virtually been the Pakistan army's politburo. She did start off by removing Maj.-Gen. [Major General] Gul Hamid as its Director-General but in retrospect this move was apparently prompted more by a desire to please Washington which was unhappy with his costly indiscretions in Afghanistan than by a determination to cut the ISI down to size. By all accounts, Maj.-Gen. Hamid's second in command, Maj.-Gen. Khalid Mughal, continues to master-mind the subversion as much in Kashmir as in Afghanistan and has reduced the retired army officer, Gen. Kallu, whom Ms. Bhutto had appointed the new Director-General, to a figure-head. So long as the Pakistan Prime Minister is content with being led by the ISI, all her talk of a readiness for a dialogue with Mr. V.P. Singh will be devoid of meaning.

Singh: India Wants Peace With Maritime Neighbors

BK1505035090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] The prime minister has asked the Coast Guard to be prepared to meet any threat to India's maritime interest. Addressing the annual Coast Guard commanders conference in New Delhi yesterday, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said India desires to live in peace with her maritime neighbors. However, the naval expansions of some of the littoral nations are disproportionate to their needs and the security environment continues to cause anxiety.

Complimenting the officers and naviks [sailors] of the Coast Guard on their performance, the prime minister said India has made substantial outlays on offshore oil exploration which must be effectively protected. Mr. V.P. Singh commended the Coast Guard for their efforts in preventing poaching and said that they have a special responsibility to ensure that there is no illegal exploitation of India's ocean resources.

Kuwait Envoy Meets Singh, Gujral; Departs

BK1105150290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] New Delhi has conveyed its concern to Kuwait over the continued interference of Pakistan in India. The matter came up during the discussion between the special envoy of the amir of Kuwait, (Muhammad Sulayman Sayeed Khalid), and the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh.

The special envoy also had a meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral. The special envoy said that he would convey New Delhi's views to the amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The special envoy left New Delhi this afternoon for home.

Bush Action Under Super 301 Called 'Provocation'

BK1205122590 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 30 Apr 90 p 11

[Editorial: "Bush Hits Hard"]

[Text] President George Bush has missed an opportunity. His decision to place India on the "hit list" for being "an unfair trading partner" under Super 301 was not entirely unexpected, but there was a lingering hope that he would assert his leadership and give a push to Indo-US relations. What is rather unfortunate, however, is that the two countries (Brazil and Japan) which were bracketed with India in this category have been taken off the "hit list", implying thereby that Washington has settled outstanding trade issues with Japan and Brazil amicably. Perhaps the US intention is to impress upon other trading countries, including the European Community, that in spite of Washington's readiness to find an amicable solution to the vexatious issues, New Delhi has struck a strident note. It is now incumbent upon New Delhi to tell the rest of the world that US conditions on India to change its basic policies regarding insurance cover, foreign equity participation and patent and intellectual property rights for protecting US firms are tantamount to gross interference in the internal affairs of India. The US ultimatum to New Delhi to change its laws to suit American firms amounts to a provocation and it cannot but sour Indo-US relations which had of late shown signs of improvement.

Mr. Bush's action at one stroke threatens to undo all that has been achieved over years and years of patient negotiations at diplomatic and trade levels. The impression was gaining ground in India that the US Government was trying to take undue advantage of India's weak balance of payments position. It wanted to equate its position with that of Brazil, which because of its debt trap had no other option but to cave in to US conditions, giving the latter a free hand to manipulate the Latin American economy. Obviously Washington has miscalculated New Delhi's resolve not to let foreign powers inferfere with its laws or economy. Were India to agree to US terms, it would have placed Indian business interests at the mercy of US multinationals. Washington knows too well that insurance, whether general or life, is a nationalised trading activity in India and that it cannot allow foreign private insurance companies [to] have a foothold in India. That will make a mockery of our laws which have been framed for safeguarding our national interest. The same holds good for our patent and intellectual property rights. It is obviously the pressure of American multinationals that has compelled the US Government to take this negative decision which in the long run is apt to rebound on US firms. No doubt the decision will harm Indian exporters wanting to sell goods in America. But this may prove to be a blessing in disguise for our business firms to explore markets elsewhere.

Dalai Lama Dissolves Tibetan Parliament in Exile

BK1105111490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 11 (AFP)—Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama announced the dissolution of Tibet's parliament in exile Friday [11 May].

A press release telexed by the Dalai Lama's office said the announcement was made in the mountainous northern Indian town of Dharamsala, where the Tibetan government and parliament in exile are headquartered.

Cabinet Resigns

BK1105134490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 11 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama dissolved Tibet's parliament in exile Friday [11 May] and announced his cabinet had quit, in line with a promise to reform and democratise the movement aimed at ending Chinese rule over Tibet. Tibet's 54-year-old spiritual and temporal leader told a special congress of Tibetan exiles at his base in the northern Indian town of Dharamsala that he had accepted the resignation of his eight-member cabinet, submitted Wednesday [9 May].

He asked the congress to elect a new cabinet, called a kashag, and discuss a new system to elect members of the parliament in exile, called the assembly of Tibetan people's deputies, a Tibetan spokesman said here. The Dalai Lama told the congress that a new parliament in exile should be in place preferably by March 10, 1991, the spokesman for his bureau in the Indian capital said.

Cabinet positions include portfolios for foreign, home, security, education and religious affairs. They are to be chosen by parliament in the future.

The Dalai Lama also declared he would set up a committee to revise the existing draft constitution for Tibet's government in exile to reflect his "expressed desire for greater democratisation."

"This committee will also be entrusted with the responsibility of amending the democratic rules and regulations governing the exile community," the spokesman said.

The cabinet's resignation and parliament's dissolution will give the Dalai Lama a free hand to proceed with democratising the Tibetan movement, he said, without giving specifics.

"At the moment I cannot tell you what is in His Holiness' mind," the spokesman said. He added that the proposed changes will be discussed at the special congress, which was expected to continue over the weekend.

The Tibetan government in exile was established after the Dalai Lama fled his homeland following an abortive anti-Chinese uprising in 1959. It is not recognised by any country. The exile parliament has 12 members, 11 of

whom are elected every five years and one who is nominated by the Dalai Lama.

Some 100,000 of the two million Tibetans followed the Dalai Lama into exile in India after the failed anti-Chinese uprising. Militants among the exiles, mainly the young, have in recent times opposed the Dalai Lama's policy of waging a peaceful struggle and called for armed resistance.

The Dalai Lama, who won the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize, announced in Brussels on April 25 his plans to reform the Tibetan movement. In a speech to the European Parliament, he said "quite radical changes" would be discussed at the Dharamsala congress in order to "implement democratic principles." He also indicated that he did not wish to play a primary role in "this future democratic government."

The Dalai Lama had said hundreds of proposals had been received for discussion at the congress, and that exiles throughout the world had been told of plans for the gathering since last summer.

Cabinet Elections Held

BK1505092390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 15 May 90

[Excerpt] Dharamsala, India, May 15 (AFP)—The Tibetan parliament-in-exile has for the first time begun electing a new interim cabinet as part of the the Dalai Lama's plans to democratise the movement seeking to end Chinese rule over Tibet. A special congress of the parliament, which was dissolved last week, Monday [14 May] elected three ministers to the kashag or cabinet, the first ever such vote in Tibet's history, officials said Tuesday.

Three senior officials including the Dalai Lama's sister Jetsun Pema Gyalpo came out ahead after two rounds of balloting to take their places on the interim seven-member cabinet, the officials said. The other two were Tibetan Religious and Cultural Affairs Council general secretary Kelshang Yeshi and Tenzen Tethong, head of the Washington-based Tibetan campaign office, the officials said, adding that all three had not yet been given specific portfolios. Ms. Gyalpo also became the first woman cabinet minister in Tibetan history, they said, adding that dates for elections to the four remaining seats would be announced later.

Monday's vote followed Friday's [11 May] dissolution of the parliament-in-exile and the Dalai Lama's acceptance of the kashag's resignation in line with his promise to introduce sweeping reforms in the movement.

Tibet's 54-year-old spiritual and temporal leader had told the special congress to elect a cabinet and discuss a new system for electing members to parliament, known as the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies. His also proposed that a bicameral legislature be set up and a constitution drafted for Tibet.

"They needed to be done, on all fronts ... domestic and international," Mr. Tenzen Tethong said referring to the promised reforms. "The changes are very positive," he added.

Visiting Western supporters here said they were "hopeful" that the changing profile of the cabinet would provide the leadership Tibet needed in its struggle for independence and to gain international stature.

But some Tibetan officials expressed concern at the changes. "I am not at all exited about the changes. This democratic system may work, but the faith of the people in their ministers will be a hundred times diminished because these ministers are not direct appointees of the Dalai Lama," said one veteran official. "The Dalai Lama alone speaks for two million Tibetans and appointments by him carry the support of the Tibetans," he added.

Mr. Kelshang Yeshi, for his part, said he was hopeful about the changes ahead. "The Dalai Lama gave the people the chance to vote, that is the democratic way," the former monk said, adding: "We have to go step by step. It is something that we must start". [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Blamed for Aircraft Induction

BK1305081490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The Comptroller and Auditor General of India—CAG—has blamed the Ministry of Defense for inducting a military aircraft into the Indian Air Force without deciding on the weapon system required. An agency report says that this was stated in its report presented to Parliament. The report says that while the contract for the aircraft was concluded in October 1982, the contract for weapons was finalized after three and a half years. This resulted in an inordinate delay in the availability of the weapons. Due to this delay, the price escalation amounting to 57.39 lakh rupees in foreign currency had to be paid. The CAG has also indicted the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research [CSIR] as well as two other science organizations for acquiring computers and keeping them idle. A CSIR scheme to modernize its financial and administrative information system through computers blocked over 82 lakh rupees.

1989-90 Exports Growth Rate Highest in 22 Years

BK1505051690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Indian exports have recorded a growth rate of 36.5 percent during 1989-90, the highest in the last 22 years. According to an official release, this is despite a slight shortfall in the overall export target. Exports financed 78 percent of imports during 1989-90. Imports on the other hand recorded a growth rate of 27.9 percent, with the 13 A-320 airbuses and petroleum imports accounting for a substantial quantum.

The total trade deficit in rupee terms registered a marginal increase of 4.3 percent, though in dollar terms it declined during the last financial year.

Akali Dal-Longowal Leader Resigns Party Post

BK1305131290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] In a major political development in Punjab, the president of the Akali Dal-Longowal, Mr. Surjit Singh Barnala, has resigned from the party post. In a statement in Chandigarh today, the former chief minister said that he has taken the step in the larger interest of the panth [religion] and Punjab.

Terrorist Attempt on Sikh Leader's Life Fails

BK1405031890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, an attempt was made last night on the life of the senior Akali Dal leader and SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Sikh Temples Management Committee] chief, Mr. G.S. Tohra, in which he was seriously injured. An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent that a former Akali Dal MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr. Hardayal Rajla, and the driver of the car were killed in the attack. Mr. Tohra's bodyguard was seriously injured. The spokesman said Mr. Tohra along with Mr. Rajla and his bodyguard were going from Ludhiana to Patiala when some terrorists chased his car and opened fire near village Pawa late last night. While the driver of the car was killed on the spot, Mr. Rajla succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. Mr. Tohra and his bodyguard have been operated upon in a hospital in Ludhiana and are now stated to be out of danger.

A massive manhunt has been launched to nab the culprits. All exit routes from Ludhiana District have been sealed.

The former Punjab chief minister and senior Akali Dal-Longowal leader, Mr. Surjit Singh Barnala, has condemned the attempt. In a statement in Chandigarh today, he said that nothing can be achieved through senseless violence and killing of political leaders. The Akali Dal-Perumal president, Mahant Sevadas Singh, has also condemned the attack.

'Terrorist' Attacks in Punjab Raise Death Toll

Six Killed in Amritsar

BK1405161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists have shot dead six persons, including two persons of a rival gang, in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists shot dead two members of a rival gang near village Mali Gaur Singh in Vikibind area of Amritsar District last night.

Seven Dead in Gurdaspur

BK1505031490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists again struck in a big way in Gurdaspur District, killing seven persons and injuring another two late last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists came to the village Dharuwal in the Dera Baba Nanak area and opened indiscriminate firing after ordering all the villagers to collect at one place.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists gunned down a Home Guard commandant in Raya Town of Amritsar District, and an unidentified person in Ropar District, and the sarpanch [headman] in Dhirwan Town of Sangrur District.

Iran

Bhutto's 'Peace Mission' Plans Previewed

LD1505085190 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 15, IRNA—Prime Minister of Pakistan Ms. Benazir Bhutto left here Tuesday morning [15 May] for Iran on a one-day official visit at the outset of her eight-nation tour of the Middle Eastern and African countries. Ms. Bhutto and her entourage are expected in the holy city of Mashhad, northeastern Iran, shortly for a brief stopover on her way to Tehran to pay pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) [may peace be upon him], the eighth imam of the household of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him].

Ms. Bhutto is heading an 80-member high ranking delegation including a group of journalists.

According to informed political sources the issue of Kashmir is top in the agenda of Ms. Bhutto's talks with heads of these state and she will also hold detailed negotiations on prevailing tension over Pakistan-India relations.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani daily 'JANG' in its Tuesday issue reported that Ms. Bhutto is carrying the draft copy of the resolution on Kashmir, compiled by Pakistani officials to be discussed at the forthcoming session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries. The draft resolution condemns brutal measures taken against the people of Kashmir and calls on the United Nations to enforce its resolutions on Kashmir. Expressing deep concern over the dangers threatening security of Pakistan, the document voices confidence that in case of any aggression against Pakistan, Islamic countries will support it.

Benazir Bhutto's husband Asef 'Ali Zardari, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Minister of State for Defence Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, Minister of Railways Zafar Leghari, Minister of State for Economic and Financil Affairs Ahsanul Haq Piracha are ranking members of her entourage.

In her current tour named "peace mission" Ms. Bhutto will also pay visits to Turkey, North Yemen, Syria,

Jordan, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. She will exchange views with heads of the host countries on international developments and issues of vital importance to the Islamic world.

Meanwhile, the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in a front page article said, "a red-carpet welcome awaits Prime Minister Ms. Bhutto who is due to arrive in the Iranian capital today." It wrote that in her official visit to Iran Ms. Bhutto will "hold talks with Iranian officials on wide-ranging topics including bilateral issues to regional and international matters."

The daily said that first Vice-President Hasan Habibi will receive Ms. Bhutto at the Mehrabad international airport in the early afternoon when she will fly from Mashhad to Tehran. "After formal reception ceremonies which will also be attended by senior Iranian and foreign diplomats, Ms. Bhutto will call on President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani...to discuss bilateral issues along with regional and international matters."

Bhutto Receives 'Warm Welcome' in Mashhad

LD1505100190 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 15, IRNA—Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto of the neighbouring Pakistan arrived in this holy city at 10:40 local time (07:10 GMT) and was welcomed at the airport by high ranking local officials.

Right after arrival Ms. Bhutto and the accompanying 80-member delegation headed for the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) [peace be upon him] to pay pilgrimage. On the route to the holy shrine Ms. Bhutto was given warm welcome by the local people who had enthusiastically gathered on both sides of the road to meet her.

She is expected in the capital city early in the afternoon on a one day official visit.

Agreement Reached With U.S. on Financial Claims

LD1505114890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] The resolution of 2,750 instances of U.S. small financial claims from Iran has been completed in the Hague Tribunal. According to a REUTER report from The Hague, U.S. officials said: With the resolution on 13 May of these claims, the way will be opened for the examination of Iran's claims for $11 billion in connection with military agreements.

Informed sources at the Hague Tribunal said: The two sides also achieved a tacit agreement in connection with the payment of $400,000 by the United States in response to 108 Iranian small financial claims.

U.S.-Iranian Financial Efforts Reach 'New Phase'

NC1505121490 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 15 May 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 15 (AFP)—Iran and the United States have entered "a new phase" in efforts to resolve outstanding financial disputes following an accord signed Sunday [13 May], a pro-government newspaper reported here Tuesday [15 May]. The agreement, settling small private claims and one U.S. government claim against Tehran, opens the way to future negotiations on larger financial disputes, said the newspaper Abrar.

"The Iranian complaint against the United States to recuperate 11 billion dollars has moved into a new phase," the paper said in a front-page story. Iran maintains that its assets frozen in the United States since the 1979 Islamic Revolution here amount to 11 billion dollars.

Prior to the revolution U.S. military aid to the shah of Iran had been financed through Iranian funds deposited in the United States. Tehran and Washington today disagree on the amount of military aid actually delivered but the dispute is believed to center on at least several billion dollars.

The accord signed Sunday, which must now be ratified by the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal in The Hague, amounts to 105 million dollars and covers 2,300 claims against Iran, each one under 250,000 dollars. [passage omitted]

Mohajerani Responds to Criticism of 'Direct Talks'

NC1405141490 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 May 90 p 2

[Article by Seyyed 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, vice president for parliamentary affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, entitled: "On the Sidelines of the Article 'Direct Talks'"]

[Text] This morning the esteemed newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI published an article entitled "Deviation" in answer to the editorial in yesterday's ETTELA'AT. This morning's article states the following:

"In the past three days, three of the closest colleagues of his excellency the president questioned him regarding the article 'Direct Talks.' His answer to each of these three persons—while expressing displeasure at the publication of this article—was: The contents of the article do not have anything to do with me."

In order to remove ambiguities, I consider it necessary to provide an immediate explanation of some points:

1. The point that the abovementioned article has nothing to do with the esteemed president is correct. I have reached this conclusion in the capacity of an individual who has social and political responsibilities as well. I

have stated my opinion clearly and without any sycophancy, in the context of "Direct Talks," and all responsibility for this article lies with me.

As I am also the vice president and the head of the Socio-Cultural Commission of the Supreme Council for National Security, the question will definitely arise as to why I did not discuss such a controversial viewpoint, liable to cause an uproar, with the esteemed president. I had two reasons, which are as follows:
A. I did not and do not expect any support from the esteemed president regarding the article and the stance mentioned therein. I consider the president as a valuable, useful, and effective asset for the revolution and for the administration of the country, and I did not want him to get involved in this matter.
B. Basically, I am not one of those who write articles to order. I do not accept orders from above, nor in accordance with any special line or lines.

2. In the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI article it was mentioned that the esteemed president had expressed displeasure at the publication of the article entitled: "Direct Talks." This morning I went to our dear president and showed him the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI article "Deviation." He refuted the allegation of "Expressing Displeasure." In addition, during the cabinet session last Sunday [29 April] all the cabinet members were witnesses to the esteemed president's statement of his opinion that enlightened persons should be able to express their views in society.

3. I do not know how far this policy is based on logic or reasoning. When a newspaper wishes to attack a viewpoint merely for purposes of defamation, it is forced to seek refuge behind some eminent figure. I request the revered editor of the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper, who obviously has a bright revolutionary and combatant record and who is quite discerning in his own right, to realize that he is not expected to distort the opinions of others and fabricate falsehoods.

4. For my part, I consider the article "Direct Talks" as one of the highlights of my political and journalistic writings, and through the grace of glorious God, when the dust has finally settled and I have emerged from the shame heaped on me by my respected critics, I will explain the quantitative and qualitative aspects of "Direct Talks." In addition, I will also elaborate on the dissection of the malady of "whipping up an atmosphere and rabble-rousing" from the point of view of social psychology. Salutations. [Signed] Seyyed 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, vice president.

UN Special Assistant To Inspect Peace Force

NC1505095190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Marrack Goulding, the UN secretary general's assistant for special political affairs, arrived in Tehran last night to inspect the UN peace-keeping forces on the Iran-Iraq fronts.

The Central News Unit reports that the UN secretary general's assistant held his first meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Mottaki and discussed the situation of the forces monitoring the cease-fire and of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group.

UN Delegation Head Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

NC1505095590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Mr. (Kebria), executive secretary of the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP, who is in Tehran at the head of a delegation, met with Mr. Mottaki, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, and discussed various international issues with him.

The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting Mr. (Kebria) pointed to the Islamic Republic's important role in ESCAP and called for expanding cooperation between the commission and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The report also states that Mr. Mottaki spoke about the first Five-Year Plan for economic, social, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for further strengthening cooperation among ESCAP members and announced Iran's readiness to host the commission's important sessions on industry, technology, agriculture, and transportation.

It should be noted that ESCAP was formed in 1974 with the objective of assisting economic development in countries in Asia and Oceania. The Islamic Republic of Iran and 40 other countries are members of this commission.

Velayati Stresses Cooperation at ECO Meeting

LD1305154390 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today met deputy foreign ministers of Turkey, Pakistan and Iran, who are representing their countries at the extraordinary session of the three-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The delegates lauded the Islamic Republic for its initiative to hold the extraordinary meet, which started earlier today. They also underlined the importance of cooperation among the three regional Muslim countries.

Velayati, referring to rapid developments in the region and the world, called for expansion of cooperation between Turkey, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic.

Confers With Pakistani Minister

LD1405105590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, the deputy foreign minister of Pakistan met Mr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, this morning, and discussed issues of mutual interest with him. According to a Central News Unit report, in that meeting, the deputy foreign minister

of Pakistan commented on the Afghan issue and the role played by the Afghan mujahidin residing in Iran and Pakistan, calling for increased contacts between the two countries to find a solution and also with regard to the holding of elections in Afghanistan.

Mr. Velayati, too, commenting on the important role played by the Afghan mujahidin residing in Iran, stressed the need to establish coordination and increasing contacts between the Afghan mujahidin residing in Iran and Pakistan, so as to find a solution. He further stressed the need for continual exchanges of ideas between the two countries.

Habibi Meets Pakistani, Turkish Officials

LD1405123490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan and Mr. Ozchery, deputy foreign ministers of Pakistan and Turkey respectively who are in Tehran attending the special session of the Economic Cooperation Organisation, ECO, last night met Mr. Habibi, first vice president. According to the Central News Unit, in this meeting, first the Turkish deputy foreign minister expressed delight at the progress made in the Iran-Turkey-Pakistan talks and the outcome of the Iran- Turkey Joint Commission session. Then the Pakistani deputy foreign minister, pointing to the extensive turmoil taking place in Western Europe and countries of the Eastern block, called for more activity on the part of the ECO and said: It would be good if, in addition to economic activities, cultural fields could expand as well, and if the Council of Ministers takes responsibility for guiding the ECO. Mr. Ahmad Tanvir Khan, expressing pleasure at the decisions made by the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission, hoped that this cooperation may expand with Ms. Benazir Bhutto's visit to Tehran.

According to this report, Mr. Habibi, welcoming the expansion of the activities of ECO, declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to work towards making this organization more active and called for greater effort on the part of countries of the region to preserve their respective economic and cultural interests. Pointing to the existence of economic and cultural potential in Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, and the opportunities for taking advantage of these resources, he said: if Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey can achieve the implementation of joint plans in these fields, they would gain greater progress from the economic, scientific, and cultural standpoints.

Mr. Habibi, in conclusion hoped that with the visit of the Turkish prime minister and the imminent visit of the prime minister of Pakistan to Iran, economic, scientific, and cultural relations will expand all the more.

2d Stage of 'Sahand' Naval Exercises Takes Place

LD1405134490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The second stage of the joint exercises of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy's Zone 2 and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps took place this morning in the presence of Commodore Shamkhani, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, and deputies and commanders of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], in the waters of the Persian Gulf. The correspondent of the Central News Unit reports on the occasion:

[Correspondent] These exercises were named "Sahand" by way of tribute to the martyrs of the Sahand frigate who were martyred in action against the air and naval forces of the criminal United States. Units that participated actively in these exercises included light and heavy destroyers, missile-launching frigates, logistic and personnel vessels, amphibious units and the Air Force of the IRGC, gun-carrying speed boats of the IRGC and the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran; frogmen; the marine-rangers of the Navies of the Armed Forces and of the IRGC, thousands of self-sacrificing combatants of the IRGC and basij of Bushehr's Naval Zone 2, and elements from the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

A few hours ago, we watched the control of electronic and communications systems of the naval units and assault-boats [qayeq-haye tahajomi] of the IRGC and the Army; the collective naval formation of the naval units operating in the maneuver zone; relocation exercises in the sea, and air maneuvers by amphibious helicopters with the naval vessels. This afternoon, gunboats will be firing at hypothetical targets and this stage of the exercises will continue until some time after midnight when the operational and training aims have been achieved.

Third Stage 'Successfully Carried Out'

LD1505074390 Tehran IRNA in English 0708 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Sahand Operational Region, May 15, IRNA - The third stage of the week-long 'Sahand' military maneuvers in the shallow northern waters of the Persian Gulf was successfully carried out on Monday [14 May]. The eight-stage maneuvers launched last Sunday [13 May] are a joint operation of the air and naval units of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

In the third stage, the commando forces on board vessels, destroyers and troop carriers captured hypothetical enemy bunkers in the general region of Ra's al-Mataf. The speed boats of the IRGC naval forces also attacked an imaginary enemy harbour and captured it. During the operation, gunboats attacked the enemy's unmanned aircraft in Ra'sul-Jalileh region demonstrating combat power in confronting the enemy.

The maneuvers are carried out in an area of 10,000 square miles to train the Iranian Armed Forces and to increase their combat ability in safeguarding the security of the Persian Gulf waters.

Fourth Stage Detailed

LD1505115890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] The joint air and naval Sahand maneuvers entered their fourth stage today with the testing of the assault capability of submarines manufactured by the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy against the surface units of a hypothetical enemy. In this stage of the maneuvers, naval vessels passed through channels which had been cleared of mines and, engaging in special naval battles in special naval formations, they repulsed the air attacks of a hypothetical enemy with the support of air defense units. The correspondent of the Central News Unit has sent us a report about the fourth stage of Sahand maneuvers. We draw your attention to this report:

[Unidentified correspondent] At the beginning of the fourth stage of the joint Sahand naval and air maneuvers, which were held in the presence of Captain Sham'khani, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, and a number of high-ranking Navy commanders—the commanders and deputy-commanders of the second naval zone of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]—special formations of naval vessels passed through channels which had been cleared of mines and engaged the air defenses and the speedboats of the naval force of the IRGC. They also fired at pilotless aircraft.

At this stage of the maneuvers, exercises began a few hours ago for tracking fighter-bombers over the sea, guiding helicopters in antisurface operations, carrying out exercises of electronic warfare, launching attacks by fighter-bombers against surface naval targets—as well as Shin-Mim-Re [chemical, biological and radiological weapons] operations and anti-germ attacks on light and heavy naval vessels. In the continuation of this stage, a number of helicopters from naval aviation units arranged in impressive formations carried out the operations for approaching and attacking the naval vessels of a hypothetical enemy.

Paper Emphasizes Need for Military Preparedness

LD1405093990 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA—A morning daily Monday underscored the necessity for military preparedness and high combat power of the Armed Forces, even while ceasefire is in force, to prevent the enemies from embarking on any act of aggression against the Islamic Republic and the revolution. 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in an editorial noted that in order to materialize its aspirations, the nation should enjoy 'power' and the means to enforce it.

"In order to live free and independent and to tread on the path that we have chosen out of our free will, we need 'will' and practical power'," wrote the daily. [quotation marks as received]

Of course, it added, "such a power should not be sought outside the country but rather in domestic forces and resources so that the the future of the revolution will be guaranteed."

The Iranian nation, the article noted, has the talent to initiate studies and research in scientific and technological fields and even be a pioneer in certain cases, the daily concluded.

Aqazadeh Comments on Cooperation With Oman

NC1405064890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Iran and Oman will establish a committee for cooperation in petroleum and have considered joint projects in the Persian Gulf. According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, who was on a visit to Iran, announced this before his departure from Tehran last night and added: This committee will begin consultations and will be responsible for necessary coordination. Thus, it will be able to take a positive step toward jointly exploiting an area of Hangam for oil. He also termed the outcome of his visit to Iran as positive.

Mr. Aqazadeh, our country's petroleum minister, saw Mr. al-Shanfari off at Mehrabad airport and answered our correspondent's questions on the results of this visit. He said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

The Omani petroleum minister brought a written message from Sultan Qabus for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The message pertained to cooperation between the two countries, especially in oil. Oman wants us to cooperate on the common oil reserves we have in the Strait of Hormuz and to embark on joint oil production. This is immensely positive, and we have given an affirmative response.

It has been decided that a joint team should assess the extraction of oil from both countries' common reserves, and this committee will be assigned to seek the best means of exploiting the reserves so that we can curtail expenses and economize by such combined cooperation.

Of course, in view of the importance and position which the Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman have in the region, this cooperation is immensely significant. In the past, we had discussed the matter in earlier visits to Oman as well. Now the conditions are extremely favorable for such collaboration. In other fields we also have great experience and expertise in the oil industry, and we are among those countries which can also give technical assistance to our neighbors. This was also discussed and I think that in the coming months, a clearer picture how the cooperation will come about will emerge. [end recording]

Central Bank Governor Reports on IMF session

NC1305075090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The Central Bank governor of our country returned after attending the IMF spring session and announced that Iran had coordinated and managed the Group of 24, the developing countries had stated their positions, and world economic developments had been discussed at the session. According to the Central News Unit, Mr 'Adeli, the Central Bank governor stated this and added: In view of the fact that Iran is one of the oldest founding members of the IMF, this year the Islamic Republic of Iran has been elected to head the Group of 24 for one year. The IMF has more than 140 member countries.

Mr. 'Adeli continued: The Islamic Republic of Iran was able to prepare a comprehensive resolution at this session by doing the necessary coordination and planning and by setting up a working group. This resolution was accepted completely, except for some very minor points, by all the members of the developing countries. He added: In this session, 10 points were discussed and debated, including the international economic developments in light of the decrease in the pace of economic growth and increase in inflation in the world.

Mr. 'Adeli elaborated that even though Iran did not participate in the IMF session in order to obtain loans or for similar purposes, it will be able to avail itself of certain privileges because it is one of the oldest members of the IMF.

[Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1700 GMT on 13 May carries a similar report, with the following addition: "The governor of the Central Bank stressed: Although Iran had not taken part in the spring session of the IMF in order to ask for loans or such issues, nevertheless, if necessary Iran will make use of its privileges which it has as an old member of the fund for making use of its credits."]

Industries Minister Heads Delegation to Austria

LD1405134590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Mr. Ne'matzadeh, the minister of industries, left for Vienna this morning at the head of a high-ranking economic delegation in order to convene the first joint Iran-Austrian economic commision and to sign a memorandum of understanding.

According to our correspondent's report, discussions will be held there regarding the expansion of industrial, commercial, and service sector cooperation between the two countries, joint investment in industrial projects, and cooperation in the fields of technological transfer, heavy industries, mining, energy, construction, and scientific and training projects.

The minister of industries will be accompanied by representatives from the ministries of oil, mines and metals, commerce, PTT [Post, Telegraph & Telephone], and agriculture.

Khamene'i Address to Naval Cadets Reported

LD1205151190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Dear listeners, as you were informed at the start of the news, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i, the illustrious leader of the Islamic Revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, arrived in Noshahr at 0830 this morning to participate in ceremonies to commission the cadets at the ninth course of the Noshahr University Complex for Marine Sciences, as well as award prizes to the outstanding graduates of the said university. Now the full version of the news concerning that visit is ready to be broadcast. Please pay attention.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i was given official welcome by the special unit of the Navy. Hojjaj ol-Eslam Ruhani and Nur-Mofidi, representatives of the Valiye-Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in Mazanderan and Gorgan va Dasht, as well as the governor general of Mazanderan, Friday prayer leaders, and clerics of the province welcomed him to Noshahr.

The commander in chief, accompanied by the chief of staff of the commander in chief as well as the chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], commander in chief of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] and the commander of the Navy of the Armed Forces of the IRI, arrived at the morning prayers field of the Noshahr University Complex for Marine Sciences to inspect the Navy units stationed in the field.

Then the commander in chief stood at the special podium as verses from the Koran were chanted and a special song was played to applaud the presence of the exalted leader of the Islamic Revolution in that university. Then the commander of the University Complex of Noshahr Marine Sciences submitted a report on the activities of the said university. Commanders, professors, model personnel, and outstanding graduates received their prizes and then the representative of the cadets of the ninth course of the Navy was honored by being commissioned personally by the exalted leader.

Later, in remarks to the units stationed at the field, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i stressed the importance of the Navy as well as the importance of safeguarding the marine rights of the great Iranian nation. He said: We have at our disposal the necesary resources to defend our long sea frontiers. As long as the song of justice is exported as the original sound of revolution from the powerful throat of the Iranian nation, our combatants

must daily become stronger and more efficient to defend the revolution against the lurking enemies. That is our principal word.

The commander in chief of the forces said that the Islamic revolution was inherently hostile to the tyrannical powers and those who were transgressing against the rights of the nations. He added: The revolution as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran regime has protested the injustices prevailing on a worldwide scale; they will remain in protest against them. Therefore, the nations and the individuals—those who are aware of the revolution, the great leader and the self-sacrificing forces of Islam—always remember us with respect and praise. That is because the Islamic revolution and our Islamic regime has continuously defended the rights of the oppressed.

The exalted leader believed that the Iranian nation must remain powerful so that the fledgling hope in the hearts of the oppressed and deprived nations of the world may survive. He said: The responsibility and the duties of the commanders and personnel of the navy are very grave and carry a great deal of importance.

The naval forces of the Army and the Guards, each of which are responsible for part of the mission, complement each other and their main responsibility is to protect Islamic Iran's sea borders. These two forces, using their varied and massive equipment, and through preparation and maintanence of the existing facilities, should add to their confrontation and defense capabilities.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said the basic merit of the Army is the move toward the great and sacred goals of its nation. He said our nation has risen for the establishment of the government of Islam and all those sacrifices were made only for the love of Islam. Today Iran is the main centerpoint for Islam, and world Muslims are looking up to this pure and sacred land. What attracts nations to Islamic Iran is faith, Islam, and the struggle toward the great Islamic goals.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i named confrontation against oppression and tyranny and struggle toward establishment of justice the great Islamic achievements, and stressed the necessity for this homeland's soldiers to be faithful to dear Islam, he said: Our soliders should believe in Islam wholeheartedly and practice it, because the solider who does not believe deeply in his religious, national, and combat mission will not be able to meet his nation's requests.

At the end of his remarks, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces wished for the ever increasing glory of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army and, addressing the personnel in the square, said: You should strengthen yourselves from moral and religious and also scientific and combat points of view and [each of you] should be a model of a genuine, believing, pure, well-thinking, well-behaving, and knowledgable Muslim. The commanders, trainers, and students of this university should also pay attention to those important issues.

It is worth mentioning that, in the welcoming ceremonies for the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, also the minister of defense and the support of the Armed Forces, the commanders of the three forces of the Army and the Guards, the naval forces deputies and commanders, the head of the commander in chief's bureau of idelogical and political affairs, representatives of the Vali-ye Faqih in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, deputy representatives of the Vali-ye Faqih in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Islamic Consultative Majlis deputies from Mazandaran, and local officials were present.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i also this morning in a meeting with commanders of the naval forces and the heads of those forces' ideological and political offices at the Noshahr University Complex for Marine Sciences, stressing that the Marine Science University Complex is the most important part of the Navy which makes its future, said: The importance of the Navy should be made clear to the people more than ever. The leader of the Islamic revolution reminded that the sea is the point where the world intends to assess and try out the Islamic Republic of Iran's strength, and therefore we should make ourselves more powerful at sea and strengthen our manpower and equipment.

Addressing the commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval forces, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces said: The maintenence, updating and preparation of the facilities are among your main duties, and in future you will be even better equipped, God willing.

The leader of the Islamic revolution also stressed discipline, order, and deepening and expanding of the power of faith and the commitment to Islam in words and deeds.

Yazdi Stresses Anticorruption Measures

LD1305201290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, spoke today at a consultative meeting with judicial officials. He asked all the courts and judicial tribunals of the country to deal decisively with those who propagate corruption and those who do not fully observe Islamic dress code [hijab].

At this meeting the head of the judiciary said: In a circular, all the courts and judicial tribunals have been asked to fully cooperate with security forces in the implementation of the plan to fight against social corruption and inadequate hejab, and to give priority to the files in connection with these issues. He said: The judicial authorities of the country should deal most decisively with those who are incorrigible and who do not observe public decency, by providing guidance and advice.

'Zafar-2' Antinarcotics Exercises Announced

LD1205155490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] In continuation of the campaign against narcotics smugglers and the implementation of Phase 3 of Val-'Adiyat [antinarcotic] project, Zafar-2 maneuvers will be held throughout the country from today for one week. Yesterday the director general of the department in charge of the antinarcotics campaign, in an interview with reporters announcing the above said: The brother guards from the Islamic Revolution Committee, in order to deal severely with the narcotics smugglers, will be stationed in fixed and mobile units in more than 2,000 places in the country.

The director general of the department in charge of the antinarcotics campaign, warning the owners of private orchards and factories around the cities and referring to the fact that a number of foreign nationals are working in those premises, said: In view of the major role of those elements [foreign nationals] in transportation and distribution of narcotics, if they are arrested, the owners of the premises where they are employed will also be handed to judicial authorities as partners in crime.

At the end, he asked the public to continue and increase their cooperation with the officials in fighting against the smugglers.

Iranian, Soviet Azerbaijanis Meet on Aras' Banks

LD1405113590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] A number of the inhabitants of (Nakhjavan) and Shakhtakht Districts of Soviet Azerbaijan, congregated on the other side of the bank of the border river of Aras, in Pol Dasht's (Sananbolaqi) District, at noon today, where they met some of the inhabitants of Pol Dasht, and made enquiries about their relatives. During that four-hour meeting, over 3,000 of the Iranian and Soviet Azeris expressed their pleasure and satisfaction at the agreements reached regarding border travel. The inhabitants of Soviet Azerbaijan also expressed hope that once the agreements reached between Iran and the Soviet Union come to effect, they would be able to go on pilgrimage to the immaculate shrine of the leader of the world's oppressed, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God's benediction be upon him, on the anniversary of the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ahmad Khomeyni Discusses Imam's Death Anniversary

LD1405113490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The meeting of the headquarters for staging the death anniversary ceremonies of the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence the Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—took place this morning in the presence of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in Jamaran. In this meeting the representatives of relevant bodies and institutions, while submitting a report on arrangements already made for staging all the more splendidly these ceremonies, continued their discussions on the subject. At the end of the meeting Ahmad Khomeyni issued the necessary guidelines on various aspects of the occasion.

Mojahedin Leader Criticizes 'Clampdown' on Women

JN1405153790 Baghdad INA in English 1355 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Paris, May 14, INA—Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, first in charge of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, has lashed out at the Iranian regime for its stepped-up clampdown on Iranian women. In a message addressed to Iranian women released here today, Mrs. Rajavi said "enmity and hatred towards women is an inherent characteristic of the Khomeyni regime's retrogressive outlook and the most evident aspect of this anti-human regime's oppressive policies. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Since last week the clerical regime's supreme Komiteh command (urban guards) and the judiciary have been enforcing a plan to further suppress and harass women. The guards have made a number of detentions and punished women who violate the official dress regulations. Tehran Radio warned women on May 10 that "the identities of improperly-veiled women will be registered in (security agencies') computers".

Mrs. Rajavi said in her message: Absurd threats made by the likes of Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani show clearly that the Khomeyni regime's remnants, stuck in a quagmire of crises, are once again resorting to stepped-up suppression and greater use of torture, especially against women, in order to keep the situation under control.

Mrs. Rajavi added: Twenty-two months after Khomeyni was forced to drink the 'poison' of ceasefire, all those promises of reconstruction and control of soaring prices have come to nothing.

The regime's authorities themselves concede that everything has deteriorated. The bankrupt regime's internal factions are at each other's throats, fighting to eliminate one another.

In such a situation, repression and especially the clampdown and abuse of the freedom-loving, oppressed women of our country, is a familiar scapegoat for this desperate, faltering regime.

The first in charge of the Mojahedin said to Iranian women and men: Our freedom-loving women and men must confront the insults and harassments by the regime's agents and defy their assaults in every street and public area.

They must put the offending guards where they belong wherever and in whatever way possible.

Mrs. Rajavi said in conclusion: At a time when the remarkable role of combatant Mojahedin women and their firmness in all political and military domains of the resistance, especially in the ranks of the National Liberation Army of Iran, have aroused the admiration and surprise of international observers, the freedom-loving women of Iran will certainly defy the threats and harassments of the Khomeyni regime's mullahs and guards.

The remnants of Khomeyni's anti-human regime, who speak of reconstruction but in practice only step up the suppression and torture of the people, have no destiny other than being overthrown and destroyed.

Commentary Denounces Saudi Restrictions on Hajj

NC1205090590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 May 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "Saudi Government's Restrictions on Performance of Hajj by Iranian Pilgrims"]

[Excerpts] Despite the activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Hajj, Endowments, and Charitable Affairs Organization and the extensive intercession by Islamic countries, the Saudi Government has opposed the travel by Iranian pilgrims to that country for performance of the hajj ceremonies. Iranian pilgrims will again be unable to perform the hajj this year.

The Saudi Government has once again blocked the path to the house of God for Iranian pilgrims even though the Islamic Republic of Iran spared no efforts to cooperate and show its goodwill. The Saudi regime is seeking to neutralize the political aspect of the hajj and prevent the airing of problems facing Muslims at this mammoth Islamic congress. No one, however, has the right to prevent Muslims from gathering for the political-ideological congress of the hajj and from performing their divine obligations. [passage omitted]

The political aspect of the political-ideological hajj obligation is diametrically opposed to the objectives of the colonialists and powers of oppression which seek to separate religion from politics, although the two are inherently indivisible.

According to the late imam of the Islamic ummah, it is impossible for pilgrims to perform the hajj and not demonstrate against the powers of world arrogance. The disavowal of the pagans is one of their political duties, without which the hajj would be incomplete. By obstructing Iranian pilgrims from traveling to the house of God and preventing Muslims from expressing their beliefs and disavowing the pagans, the Saudi regime is not only ignoring the interests of the Muslims, but it has also pitched itself against all Muslims of the world.

The Saudi regime's obstructionism of the past few years which has hindered the performance of the hajj by the Iranian pilgrims; the heinous atrocity committed at Mecca, where 400 pilgrims to the house of God were massacred; and the hundreds of other crimes of which it is guilty, especially its efforts to cause deviations from the natural course of the hajj and to transform this divine obligation into a hollow ritual, all confirm that the Saudi authorities are not competent to administer the two holy mosques. In the opinion of the Muslims of Iran and the world, the administration of these sites should be entrusted to a panel of 'ulema and Islamic thinkers from around the world.

There is no doubt that these 'ulema and Islamic thinkers will deem the Saudi authorities' control over the sacred Islamic sites unlawful in view of the Saudis' collusion with the United States and the regime occupying Jerusalem, which continue to insist on their policy of suppressing, massacring, and displacing the persecuted Palestinian nation.

The imposition of restrictions on the number of the Iranian pilgrims and the ban on their marches for the disavowal of the pagans and oppressors, especially the criminal Israeli regime, continues at a time when the Palestinian issue and the practical struggle of the Muslims and Palestinian combatants against the despotic Israeli regime and its allies have assumed new dimensions as the central issue for the Islamic world in the light of the growing Islamic revolution by the Palestinian ummah. [passage omitted]

Will the Muslims allow a regime which is completely subservient to the United States and indirectly subservient to international Zionism to rule over the two holy mosques? It is for this reason, that now, more than ever before, the real nature of the Saudi regime has become the focus of attention for world Muslims. It is clear that the Islamic ummah considers world oppression and international Zionism its real enemies and believes that they have planted their surrogates to rule over the Islamic world. It is also clear that the Islamic ummah believes that a relentless and unceasing struggle must be waged against them.

In this context, the Muslims of the world must recognize the overt and covert efforts by Arab reactionaries to legitimatize the Zionist regime and do all they can to oppose these efforts, thwarting them through their vigilance.

*Steel Complex Expected Operational Next Year

46000104A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 May 90 p 2

[Text] Tehran—The Mobarakeh steel complex with a capacity of 2.4 million tons per year will come on stream next year with a total investment of $5 billion.

According to the publication of the Mines and Metals Ministry this complex is located 80 kilometers from the city of Isfahan over a total area of 21 square kilometers. The products of this plant are various types of steel sheets ranging from 0.3 to 16 millimeters (mm) in thickness.

This project was supposed to be implemented in Bandar Abbas first, and then the provisional government decided to transfer it to Esfahan. At that time over $400 million had been spent on the project.

If the plant operates at maximum capacity, it would have a total value of $1.8 billion. The agreement for constructing the giant complex was signed 13 years ago.

The total number of workers at this plant is 9,885. For creation of the complex 25 agreements needed to be signed, 19 of which have been signed with an Italian company.

*Price of Vehicles Increases Suddenly, Sharply

90AS0046J London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 4

[Text] Following the announcement of an increase in annual taxes on cars, the car and vehicle market in Tehran and other cities became unstable, and in less than a week the price of most new and used cars increased by 10 to 20 percent.

The Islamic Republic's Ministry of Interior issued instructions for city halls to collect more taxes and duties on vehicles based on the number of cylinders from the start of this year 1369 [beginning 21 March 1990].

The above-mentioned circular letter, which was sent to all city halls in the middle of last month, states that the collection of several times the amount of taxes for vehicles will be based on the number of cylinders. These taxes will be calculated from the beginning of this year 1369, and the owners of cars will be obliged to pay them.

According to reports from Tehran, based on the new regulations announced by the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Interior, from now on, four-cylinder cars will pay 1,000 tomans, six-cylinder cars 2,000 tomans, and eight-cylinder cars 5,000 tomans in municipal taxes.

*Disturbances Reported in Kerman Province

90AS0048B London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] According to reports from inside the country, the cities in Kerman Province were scenes of widespread skirmishes between the people and the guards of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee in late Esfand and early Farvardin [March].

The above-mentioned report indicates that the skirmishes occurred after strong anti-Islamic Republic slogans had been written and scattered congregations of youth had begun to turn into political demonstrations.

According to the same report, some of the skirmishes in Kerman were armed and ended in the killing of a number of guards.

Nepal & Bhutan

King-Premier Meeting Postponed to 15 May

BK1405144590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 14 (AFP)—A scheduled meeting between Nepal's King Birendra and Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has been postponed until Tuesday [15 May], official sources said late Monday. The meeting, which was to be held Monday was designed to avert a crisis over a commission named by the king last week to draft a new constitution. The sources said discussion on the commission, the naming of which caused a furor in Nepal's new multi-party government, would be held during the prime minister's regular Tuesday meeting with the king.

Demonstrators took to the streets in Kathmandu Saturday [12 May] and the army was called out as a precautionary measure Sunday [13 May] when discontent over the fact that the king had not consulted the government on the commission spread. The troops were withdrawn late Sunday and were off the streets by Monday.

On Sunday one person was shot dead and two injured when police opened fire in the western town of Baglung. The shooting was only indirectly connected with the protest over the constitutional commission.

Head of Constitutional Advisory Commission Resigns

BK1505034890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0331 GMT 15 May 90

[Text]) Kathmandu, May 15 (AFp)—Biswonath Upadhyaya has resigned as chairman of the controversial Constitutional Advisory Commission in response to strong criticism from Nepal's political parties, state radio announced Tuesday [15 May]. Tendering the resignation to King Birendra, Mr. Upadhyaya said he considered it his duty to step down in view of criticism from both the Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front, the two main parties of the coalition government, over the formation of the constitutional reform panel. A furor erupted after the king unilaterally named the seven-person commission on Friday [11 May].

Mr. Upadhyaya said: "I believe that without the cooperation of both the Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front, the commission cannot discharge its responsibility effectively."

Political observers here said Mr. Upadhyaya's resignation from the panel paved the way for the king and Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai to form a constitutional drafting body to reflect the aspirations of a cross-section of the Nepalese people and political parties.

Paper Stresses Need for NC-Left Front Unity

BK1005132590 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Unity for Strength"]

[Text] The struggle carried out jointly by the Nepali Congress [NC] and the United Left Front has brought an end to the 30-year-old Panchayat system to replace it with the multi-party system, in accordance with the aspirations of the Nepalese people, who have braved even death since the movement began February 18 to bring about the desired change. However, elements who want to exploit the fluid situation have been trying to subvert the gains of the movement. Hence these reactionary forces, unable to concede defeat to the human values and norms which are being set up as per liberal democratic ideals, are trying to create terror and fear among the people by resorting to such anti-social activities like arson, looting, killing and the like. Therefore, trying to check these anti-social elements to bring about law and order in the country should be the primary objective of the interim government.

Safeguarding the achievements of the democratic movement can only come about through the joint efforts of the United Left Front and the Nepali Congress, who mainly represent the Nepalese people in the interim government. As Sahana Pradhan, president of the United Left Front, pointed out in a statement, stronger unity and understanding between the United Left Front and the Nepali Congress is needed. There are a number of responsibilities before the interim government, apart from working out a people-oriented constitution and holding of a free and fair election. What the people expect most of all from the new government is price control of daily necessities. But then only a peaceful atmosphere can help meet these responsibilities. Because the interim government is the people's own government, the two political groups, the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front, should forget their ideological differences, at least until the coming elections, and foster even closer understanding between the two, like they did in the past, to sort out the many problems afflicting the country at large. Apart from them, however, the people also have a big hand in thwarting the conspiracies of the reactionary elements and bringing about swift changes. This the people can do, as Mrs. Pradhan pointed out, by cooperating with the interim government and fostering a peaceful atmosphere. In thwarting anti-social elements, the people should, however, never take law into their own hands for doing so would be playing right into the hands of anti-social elements.

Spokesman Reports Nepali Congress Resolutions

BK1005134490 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Apr 90 pp 1, 7

[By a staff reporter]

[Text] His Majesty's Government has dissolved district, village and town panchayats [councils] and assemblies with immediate effect, thus obliterating all tiers of the partyless Panchayat system.

The cabinet decision to that effect as communicated to the Nepali Congress [NC] central working committee meeting by the Prime Minister Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai this morning was disclosed to pressmen here today by the spokesman of the party, Mr. C.K. Prasai after the first session of the third day of the meeting.

The dissolution of all the local-level panchayats is in accordance with the pressing demands by the people, Mr. Prasai said.

This demand is among the eight-point charter of demands put forward by the united front of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front (ULF).

Mr. Prasai said committees with different names will soon be formed under the Ministry of Local Development to carry on development works at the district, town and village levels.

The work of the dissolved panchayats will for the time being be done by the local development officers at the district level, chief administrative officers at the town level and office secretaries at the village level, Mr. Prasai said adding these are all employees of His Majesty's Government and not panchas [members of partyless assemblies].

Mr. Prasai described the government decision as a drastic and swift step in line with the desires of the people.

The Rastriya Panchayat, the apex legislative body under the partyless system, and all the class organisations were dissolved on April 16.

The three-day meeting of the party's central working committee, which discussed in detail a variety of subjects, concluded here today, by passing a number of resolutions and decisions.

Today's meeting, held in two sessions focussed on the party's foreign policy, its organisational matters, and economic problems faced by the country and the people.

FOREIGN POLICY: Briefing newsmen after the end of the meeting, Mr. Prasai said the foreign policy of the party rests on nationalism, national integration, sovereignty, nonalignment and establishment of cordial relations with all friendly countries with special emphasis on Nepal's ties with its immediate neighbours.

But within that framework, Mr. Prasai said, "we are a little nearer to India for reasons of geography, culture, religion, economic relations and people's lifestyles."

On the trade and transit dispute with India, the Nepali Congress hopes that some swift and concrete steps will be taken by the two governments.

The party wants to restore the status quo ante of March 23, 1989 with India before proceeding to enter into negotiations to decide the future course of action.

The party favours increased regional cooperation especially within SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], the spokesman said.

It has deep faith in the UN Charter which needs to be respected and implemented in all parts of the world, Mr. Prasai added.

The NC stresses the need for world peace including cooperation in such diverse fields as economic, social and political areas, he said.

The spokesman said that the developments in Eastern Europe have ushered in a new era of democracy and liberalism, and are bound to influence world events and added that Nepal can not remain aloof from these changes.

Asked about Nepal's peace zone proposal he made no specific comment but stressed peace in general.

Mr. Prasai emphasized the party's foreign policy after 1950 and said that the same policy has been repeated at its several conventions and central committee meetings.

He said that the NC had to proceed to adjust itself to the changed circumstances within a short time in order to cope with the difficulties of the people.

The party is concerned to produce a new constitution on the one hand and to be emphatic, swift and concrete to hold a general election within one year, Mr. Prasai said.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: He also said that the party was going to start afresh the membership drive throughout the country to be finished by the end of the month of Shrawan [fifth month of Hindu calendar year].

The central working committee has decided to hold a national convention the date for which is yet to be fixed, Mr. Prasai said.

He pointed out that in the near future the party will organise a public ceremony to felicitate the supreme leader Mr. Ganesh Man Singh.

The central working committee has also formed six special committees to meet the new situation namely the manifesto drafting committee under the convenorship of Mr. C.K. Prasai; the economic policy committee under Mr. Jagannath Acharya; the foreign policy committee under Mr. Sushil Koirala; publicity committee under Ram Chandra Poudel; the social committee under Mr. Tara Bhat; and organisational committee under Mr. Chiranjibi Wagle.

The meeting today was presided over by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai in his capacity as the Acting President of the Party.

Mr. Ganesh Man Singh and party General Secretary Girija Prasad Koirala also attended the meeting.

The party resolutions have described as the first step towards the establishment of total democracy the gains so far achieved by the recent revolution which include the end of the Panchayat system, the establishment of multi-party democracy and the formation of the interim government.

TWIN TASKS: The most important two tasks now facing the country are the framing of a constitution that provides full guarantees of people's rights and the holding of general election under the democratic consituation, the resolutions note.

Noting that the Nepali Congress favours constitutional monarchy under parliamentary democracy the resolutions warn the reactionary elements that had been abusing power and riding roughshod over the people not to engage in any nefarious attempts to impede the process of democratisation and to nullify the gains of the revolution.

The resolutions also stress the unity between the party and the United Left Front in the preservation and promotion of democracy.

The resolutions call upon the interim government to adopt a number of measures to translate people's aspirations into action.

The party urges the government to immediately form a constitution commission represented by political parties, and constitutional and legal experts.

It calls for the setting up of an investigation commission in place of the one formed on 24 Chaitra [first month of Hindu calendar year] to look into the loss of life and property since the beginning of the movement.

It also recommends the consituation of an investigation commission to look into the assets amassed by power-holders and others during the Panchayat rule and punishment for the guilty.

The government must take necessary measures against those responsible for excesses during the movement and those involved in impeding democracy, it says.

PRICES: The suggested measures also include reduction in prices of some essential commodities and services and lower interest rates for agricultural loans.

The party urges the government to formulate policy and programmes to provide for equal opportunity for the development of various ethnic groups, languages, cultures and religious practices which remained neglected during the partyless Panchayat system.

Other suggestions include suitable compensation for those who had been martyred in the cause of democracy, return of property of political persons seized during the Panchayat rule, reforms of Nepalese jails, solving of difficulties of people engaged in various occupations, review of the activities of the National Sports Council and some other social bodies.

Role of Communists in Multiparty Movement Viewed

BK1205022690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 May 90 p 8

[By Sonny Inbaraj]

[Text] The red cloth banners flutter in the warm summer breeze. The hammer and sickle emblazoned on the banners are prominently displayed and the Nepalese carrying them chanting "Majdur Zindabab" (Long-live the Workers).

Rallying behind Karl Marx's call for "Workers of the World to Unite", thousands of Nepalese donning red neck-ties march down the centuries-old cobble-stoned road in downtown Kathmandu's Durbar Square, where the pagodas tower and the idols loom.

While the tide turns against Marxism in other parts of the world, it is still very much alive in Nepal.

For the first time in Nepalese history, workers have been allowed to stage Labour Day rallies and on May 1, 1990, the workers of Nepal showed the world they had been a force to be reckoned with.

Observers indicate that these workers—comprising mainly of the urban middle class and manual labourers—were the backbone for the movement for the restoration of multi-party democracy (MRD) campaign in Nepal which began three months ago.

On April 9, King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah lifted a 30-year ban on political parties after bowing to pro-democracy protests in which at least 100 people were killed.

The interim government of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai formed on April 17, consists of members of the United Left Front (a coalition of seven splinter communist groups), the centrist Nepali Congress Party and human rights activists. Its mandate is to reduce the powers of King Birendra to those of a constitutional monarch and to organise multi-party elections.

"There's no doubt the leftist movement did play an important part in the MRD campaign," says Bharati Silawal, the editor and publisher of the monthly MEDIA NEPAL.

"They seem to be more organised and have laid their ground-work well among the grass-roots. The 30-year ban on all political parties didn't deter them at all and most Nepal Communist Party members have been working underground all that time," she says.

"The foreign media portrayed the MRD as a Nepali Congress movement, but without the support of the communists the campaign would never had taken-off the ground."

Hardships caused by corruption have also been rallying points by the communists and detractors of the monarchy accuse King Birendra of becoming a symbol of institutionalised corruption.

"Because of widespread corruption, the Nepalese suffer a great deal. When they suffer, they are prepared to go to extremes. The Nepalese are angry because food prices are now exorbitant, the unemployment rate is rising and there's a shortage of vital commodities in Kathmandu," says a student leader.

"These issues have been used by the communists to conscientize [as published] people and the Nepalese who have heeded their (the communists) call are the urban middle class and the manual labourers, the two groups most affected by institutional corruption," he says.

While the communists seem to have unwavering support from Nepal's urban middle class, their alliance (under the banner of the United Left Front) with the centrist Nepali Congress Party in the interim government of Prime Minister Bhattarai is beginning to show strains.

Referring to his party's relationship with its coalition partner in the government, the United Left Front, Bhattarai told journalists recently that the Nepali Congress was determined to keep the alliance going.

"The Left might leave us, but we will do nothing on our part to sever the ties," he said.

Bhattarai said the leftists had been raising may workers' demands and expected them to be fulfilled by the new government.

"We realise the validity of these demands, but as you know, it will take time," he added.

But United Left Front leader Padma Raj Tulaga refers to the Nepali Congress' statements being made because of a "psychological complex".

"It's something in the minds of the Nepali Congress leaders. It's all psychological. The Nepali Congress thinks we (the communists) will take over the multi-party democracy movement because of our strong grass-root support," he says.

Nevertheless the communists do feel that the Nepali Congress is taking a non-committal liberal stand towards the monarchy.

"Congress is making compromises by dealing with the palace in one way and the people in another way," says Madhav Kumar Nepal, a central leader of the Communist Party of Nepal, Marxist-Leninist faction; one of the splinter groups in the United Left Front.

"We want the King's absolute powers to be reduced to that of a constitutional monarch but Bhattarai is taking an inordinately long-time in wanting to deal with Birendra."

Though the United Left Front might give a semblance of unity to outsiders, five splinter communist groups however have refused to come under its umbrella.

Those five splinter groups have instead formed the United National People's Movement (UNPM) and

claim that the United Left Front members are pseudo-Marxists with leanings towards the Soviet Union.

Referring to the UNPM's remarks, Madhav Kumar says, "We are nationalists fighting for the Nepalese people's survival. We are not against the Soviets but neither do we support them. The same goes with the Chinese."

With the forthcoming multi-party elections, analysts say the Nepali Congress and the communists could ill-afford to be disunited.

"The main challenge to the previously banned political parties is expected to come from former members of the national panchayat, the nation's partyless parliament who are planning to form their own party," says Gauri Pradhan, a human rights activist.

King Birendra dissolved the partyless national panchayat on April 17 when he announced the lifting of the ban on political parties.

"The panchayat party members will be looking for support from the 500,000 cadress spread over 4,000 villages in the country's 75 districts. For this reason the leftists have to unite with the Nepali Congress on a common front because if we don't the rural people who have little understanding of the democratic process are likely to readily identify with the familiar panchayat system," says United Left Front's Tulaga.

Kathmandu residents claim that the panchayat system formerly headed by King Birendra has been terminated only in principle but not constitutionally and legally.

Even today many Nepalese in the remote villages believe King Birendra is an incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu and sighting him can wash away their sins, say observers.

Pakistan

Bhutto Departs on 9-Day Tour of 8 Islamic Nations

BK1505062290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad this morning for Tehran on a day's visit to Iran on the first leg of her nine-day tour of Islamic countries. She was seen off at the airport by, among others, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Begum Ashraf Abbasi, federal ministers, ministers of state, and members of the National Assembly.

During her visit to eight countries of the Middle East and Northern Africa, the prime minister will exchange views with the leaders of the host countries on important issues, including the Kashmir problem and other issues facing the Islamic community.

The prime minister is accompanied by a 48-member delegation which includes Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Karachi Businessmen Strike To Protest Crime

Islamabad Radio Reports

BK1405160290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] In Karachi today, the business community observed a token strike in protest against robbery and other incidents of lawlessness. Karachi stock exchange and other business and commercial centers remained closed. The federation of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Pakistani Chamber of Commerce and Industry made an appeal for the strike. Public and private transport operated as usual and banks and offices functioned normally.

Delhi Radio Reports

BK1405093490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] In Pakistan, the entire business community in Karachi is observing a strike today in protest against the breakdown of law and order in the Sindh Province, especially in Karachi and Hyderabad. The immediate provocation compelling 65 business and trade bodies to call for today's strike in Karachi was a gruesome murder of a leading stock broker in broad daylight in his office in the Karachi stock exchange by unidentified gunmen on Saturday [12 May]. AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that, for the past week, doctors and paramedical staff of Karachi's hospitals and medical centers have also been on strike.

Meanwhile, four more persons were shot dead in sniper shooting yesterday in different parts of Karachi, including the Malir area where a curfew has been imposed over the last three days following armed clashes and sniper shooting since last Wednesday which left several dead and wounded.

Curfew in Hyderabad City Areas After Violence

BK1505012690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] The City Market and Phuleli Police Station areas of the Hyderabad City Subdivision have been placed under curfew for an indefinite period since 2330 [1830 GMT] last night. This has been done following violent incidents in which two people were killed.

Sindh Violence Breaks Out, Bombs Blast Peshawar

BK1505033090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] In Pakistan, seven more persons were killed and 16 injured in fresh outbreaks of violence in Karachi and Hyderabad in Sindh Province yesterday. While three persons died in sniper firing in the Karachi University area, four persons were killed and 16 injured when armed men went out firing indiscriminately in different

parts of Hyderabad City. Our Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that curfew has been imposed in the central parts of the city.

Meanwhile, two bomb blasts rocked Peshawar late last night, disrupting the gas and electricity supply to the city.

Kashmir Premier Urges Center To Rescind Simla Pact

BK1305113290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 May 90 p 8

[Text] Mirpur (AJK) [Azad Jammu Kashmir], May 12—Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan has urged the government of Pakistan to rescind the Simla Pact with India and claimed his demand was backed by the entire nation of Pakistan.

Addressing a public meeting here, the prime minister warned that if the [Pakistan] People's Party [PPP] government did not stop playing 'dangerous game' in Azad Kashmir, the process would end in the downfall of the Benazir government in Pakistan.

The meeting was also addressed by Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, President of AJK, Chief of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] Mian Nawaz Sharif and others.

Sardar Sikander in his address recalled the recommendations of the National Kashmir Conference which unanimously recommended the abrogation of the Simla Pact with India as it had failed to facilitate the solution of Kashmir dispute.

The National Kashmir Conference held in Rawalpindi on Feb 11, this year was addressed and participated by Senior Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi [of National People's Party], Mian Nawaz Sharif, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan [of Pakistan Democratic Party] and others.

Sardar Sikander Hayat said the division of Kashmir was part and parcel of the manifesto of the People's Party.

The PPP wanted Azad Kashmir to be a province. Therefore this party, he alleged, has no interest in the advancement of Kashmir liberation movement.

The AJK Prime Minister said the struggle was not aimed at securing the seat of power, "it is basically a fight between the builders of Pakistan on one side and the breakers of Pakistan on the other".

The entire nation of Pakistan, he said, was firmly with the IJI today.

He said the people of Kashmir did not expect anything good from the PPP government. "This party stands exposed before the people of Kashmir by its mere lip-service", he added

He said that although much drum-beating has been done with regard to the Peoples' Works Programme [PWP] in AJK but "I say with full conviction that nothing has been done at all". "The PWP money does not seem to have been invested in AJK," he added.

He said a greater danger was looming large and that danger is the planning of the Indian government to usurp Azad Kashmir. The whole nation should be aware of our enemy's plot, he added.

Sardar Sikaner Hayat Khan said the movement in Occupied Kashmir was gaining momentum day by day. We have worked for it for years. It is not the result of one day alone. We cannot leave the freedom fighters alone in the middle of the stream, he added.

Spokesman on Indian Proposal for Panel Meetings

BK1305091490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Pakistan will soon give its response to the Indian proposal for holding meetings of the four subcommissions of the Pakistan-India Joint Ministerial Commission. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad yesterday that before last month's meeting of the foreign ministers of Pakistan and India in New York, India had sent a formal note proposing specific dates for the meetings of the subcommissions. But when the matter came up before the two foreign ministers, Pakistan found that India was not serious about discussing the proposal. The spokesman said now there has been a clarification from India that its proposal for the meeting still stands. Pakistan will therefore consider these dates and respond to the Indian note.

Joint National Council on Jammu, Kashmir Formed

BK1305090290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] A joint national council on Jammu and Kashmir has been constituted to support and to promote the cause of people of Jammu and Kashmir at international and national forums through all possible peaceful means. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will be the chairman of the council which will comprise members of Parliament from both government and opposition sides. The council has been formed in accordance with resolutions of the joint session of Parliament adopted last February.

Refugees Report 'Terror Drive' in Indian Kashmir

BK1105092290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0908 GMT 11 May 90

[By Shamim Ur Rahman]

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistani Kashmir, May 11 (AFP)—Indian troops, depopulating villages in Kashmir state, are plundering houses and abusing women as part of a "terror drive" against Moslem militants, refugees fleeing across the border from Indian-held Kashmir here said.

Mariam Bibi, a woman in her mid-20s who arrived here two weeks ago with her four children from Kantawali

village in Kapwara district, said she was "gang raped for four days" by Indian soldiers.

"They pulled my hair and threatened to break my arms and legs," before taking her to their post, she said. They also threatened to hang her up by her breasts from a tree if she did not cooperate, she added.

Looking shocked, she said that while some Indian troops were dragging her away others pounced on her with sticks and rifle butts and pulled at her breasts.

They behaved "like starved animals", the pretty-looking woman, now living in a camp run by the Kashmir Liberation Cell (KLC) under the Pakistani-controlled Azad (Free) Kashmir government, said as she wiped away tears and patted her children.

Explaining what she called the "agony of humiliation", she said "They held me for four days and raped me several times."

Asked why she became their target, she said "the invading soldiers attacked my house when my husband was away. All the time they were asking me 'hand over your weapons.' But I had none."

The soldiers and officers conducting house-to-house searches "plundered the houses and made many of us hostages when the search yielded no arms," she said.

"I was not allowed to sleep and my children were denied food," she added.

"On my repeated pleas they allowed me to fetch food from my house four days later. But that too, on the condition that my young nephew would stay behind as a hostage to ensure that I would come back."

As she did not go back she was told that they killed her nephew and tortured his father, making him stand for a whole day in five feet deep icy water to extract confessions and information on those fighting against the Indians, she said.

Another woman, Peerzadi, was also raped along with her aunt in the same military post, friends said. She herself could say nothing but "I am afraid of the kafirs (non-believers)."

Mir Zaman, a middle aged man from the village located about 10 kilometers from the line of control dividing the predominantly Moslem state, said that in a surprise raid "the Indian troops descended on our village, moved us like herds of sheep and beat up most of us while searching for the militants."

"They looted our things and abused our women," he said.

Babar Ali, a farmer from Kamalpur in the Chamb sector, said he was a sympathiser of the militants fighting for the secession of Kashmir from India, while Mohammad Basharat, a school student who ran away from his village of Sikander Kot in the Uri sector said he would not return as he and his friends helped the militants.

Babar Ali said the Indians were trying to flush out the Moslem population from the border areas to create security zones against militants crossing the ceasefire line.

It could also be a prelude to war, he said, stressing that most of the Hindus in the border areas had already been transferred to safer places.

(Officials on the Indian side said Thursday [10 May] the Jammu and Kashmir state government had begun a massive evacuation of villages on the border with Pakistan as part of new steps to check the Moslem secessionist campaign.

(Some 500 residents had been shifted from the Jammu region's border village of Kirni at the start of the evacuation involving thousands of people, the officials said.

(They said the evacuation, decided upon at a recent high-level meeting of civilian and defence officials, was designed to check any intrusions from Pakistan, which has been accused by India of aiding the bloody Moslem militancy.

(Some 4,000 Pakistan-trained militants were waiting in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir to cross over the military line of control to the Poonch and Rajouri areas held by India, the officials said.

(Pakistan, which has fought two of its three wars with India over Kashmir, has denied that it was training and abetting the militants.)

Spokesman Denies Postponment of ICO Meeting

BK1405162590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has described the news item carried by the Indian media about postponement of the 19th ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers conference as fabricated and purely speculative. He said in Islamabad that no such information has been received through official channels about the conference, which is scheduled to be held in Cairo from the 11th to 15th of next month.

Canada Minister on Nuclear Power, Kashmir, Afghans

BK1005160690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1538 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 10 (AFP)—Canada cannot provide Pakistan with nuclear technology because Islamabad has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a Canadian Government official said here Thursday [10 May].

But Ottawa was providing Islamabad with security-related information to operate the Karachi nuclear power plant (Kanupp) which started operating in the early seventies with Canadian assistance, said Monique Landry, Canada's minister for external relations and international development.

"Our position is well known," Ms. Landry told a news conference here at the end of a four-day visit to Pakistan, which is seeking technical and financial assistance to build nuclear power plants.

Ms. Landry, who met Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here Thursday, said that Canada pledged 12 million Canadian dollars (10.2 million U.S.) to help Pakistan execute its "national power plan," which covers the country's power generation requirements for the next 25 years.

A memorandum of understanding to that effect was signed here Thursday.

Canada also increased its assistance from 38 million Canadian dollars (33 million U.S.) last year to 45 million dollars (39 million U.S.) this year, Ms. Landry said.

On Kashmir, she said her country was "concerned" by the deteriorating situation between India and Pakistan.

"As friend of both Pakistan and India, we urge them to apply restraint and consider (the 1972) Simla accord (as) the best way to start negotiations and reach a peaceful conclusion," she said.

Ms. Bhutto briefed Ms. Landry on Pakistan's concerns over persisting tension due to India's denial of the Kashmiris' right of self-determination and New Delhi's threats of war, official Pakistan television reported.

"We don't want tension in the region and want to focus on economic development," Ms. Bhutto said.

On Afghanistan, Ms. Landry said Canada has maintained the level of its assistance for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. "Until peace and security has been achieved, refugees could not be convinced to return," she added.